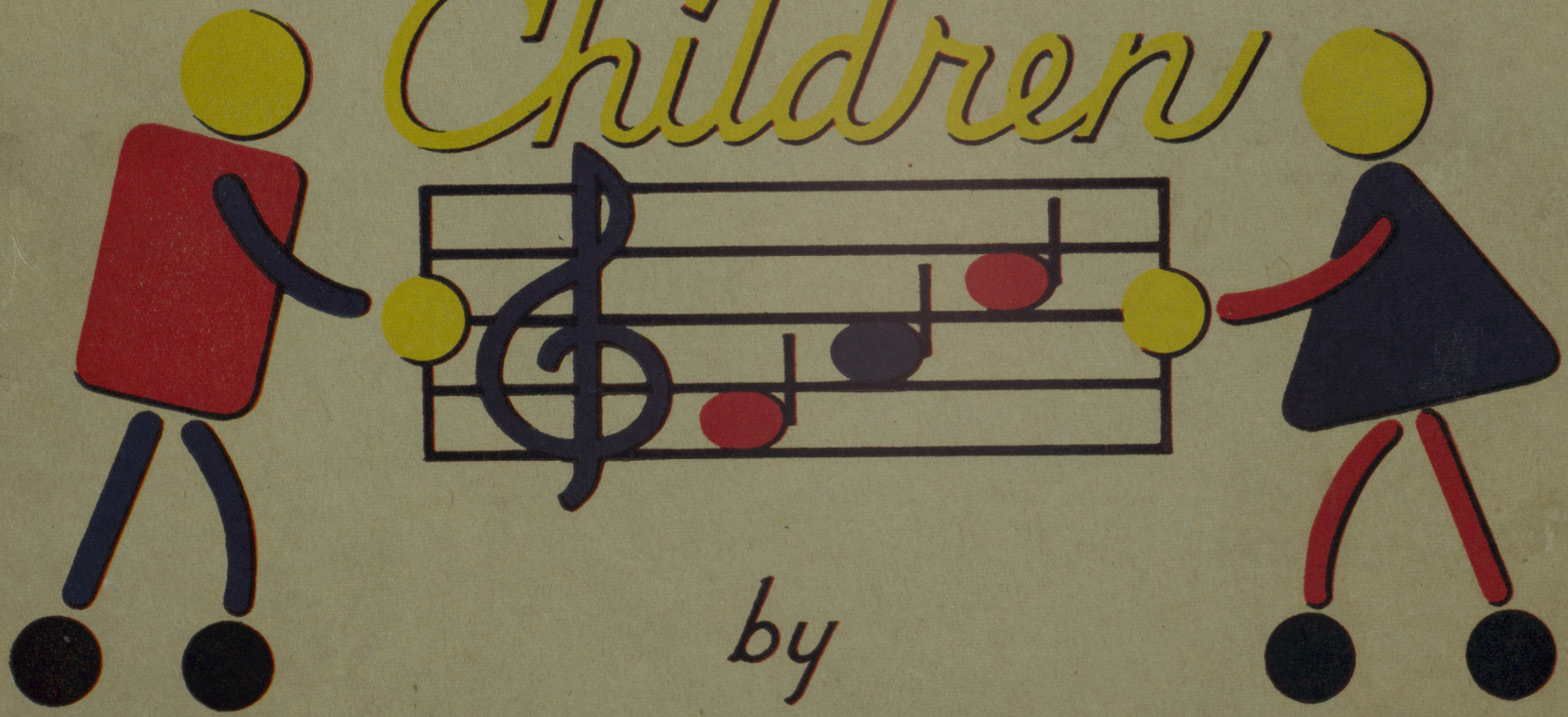
Edith Taylor

SINGING GAMES for Children



by

ALICE P. HAMLIN & MARGARET G. GUESSFORD

hinges
reinforced

$25-

Dedicated to
Margot and the Children of Windsor Day School

SINGING GAMES
for
Children

BY

ALICE P. HAMLIN
AND
MARGARET G. GUESSFORD

THE WILLIS MUSIC COMPANY
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FOREWORD

These are the old singing games. Games that children everywhere have always played and for this reason have endured because they deserved to.

Wandering minstrels carried them from one country to another, therefore, the origin in many cases is a bit obscure. Some are purely American.

These games may be taught in the home, school, or on the playground to children of nursery school, kindergarten, first and second grades.

The spirit of play and the imaginative world of little children are happily and vividly expressed through music. Music, rhythm and imagination are blended as a potent means of promoting social relationship. Music and play can vitalize their lives, create and intensify moods, develop sense perception, quicken mental responses, and improve physical coordination. The aim of this book is not perfection of dramatic action but interest and participation, fun and relaxation.

For teachers who desire to develop the best tone quality in every-day singing, a small choir may be used to sing the song while the remainder of the class carries out the action. These songs have been recorded and the number indicated for those who wish to use the phongraph in the class room or on the playground.

Also, for the teacher who needs motivated singing for the elimination of monotones, the two solos in "Little Sally Water" and the solo in "Little Tommy Tittlemouse" will serve the purpose admirably. For we all agree that only in very rare cases do we find monotones with vocal difficulty, but rather the child lacks concentration, interest, or actual hearing of the tone.

In all directions the following terms are used:

Curtsey—Girls hold skirt with hands, place right toe behind left foot and bend knees in quick motion.

Bow —Boys place left hand on stomach, right hand on back, palm out and bend forward at waist.

Skip —Step, hop, fast with rhythm of music.

Slide —Step sideward on left foot, draw up right foot to left, repeat.

All new participants in games are chosen by children bowing or curtseying in front of such children.

Grateful acknowledgment is due Jeannie Smeltzer and Nancy Welles for words and music of "Little Jack-A-Dandy" from "Sense Games."

Grateful acknowledgment and deep appreciation goes to L. Ward Webber, the illustrator of this book. His deep understanding of children and fine cooperation have been invaluable.

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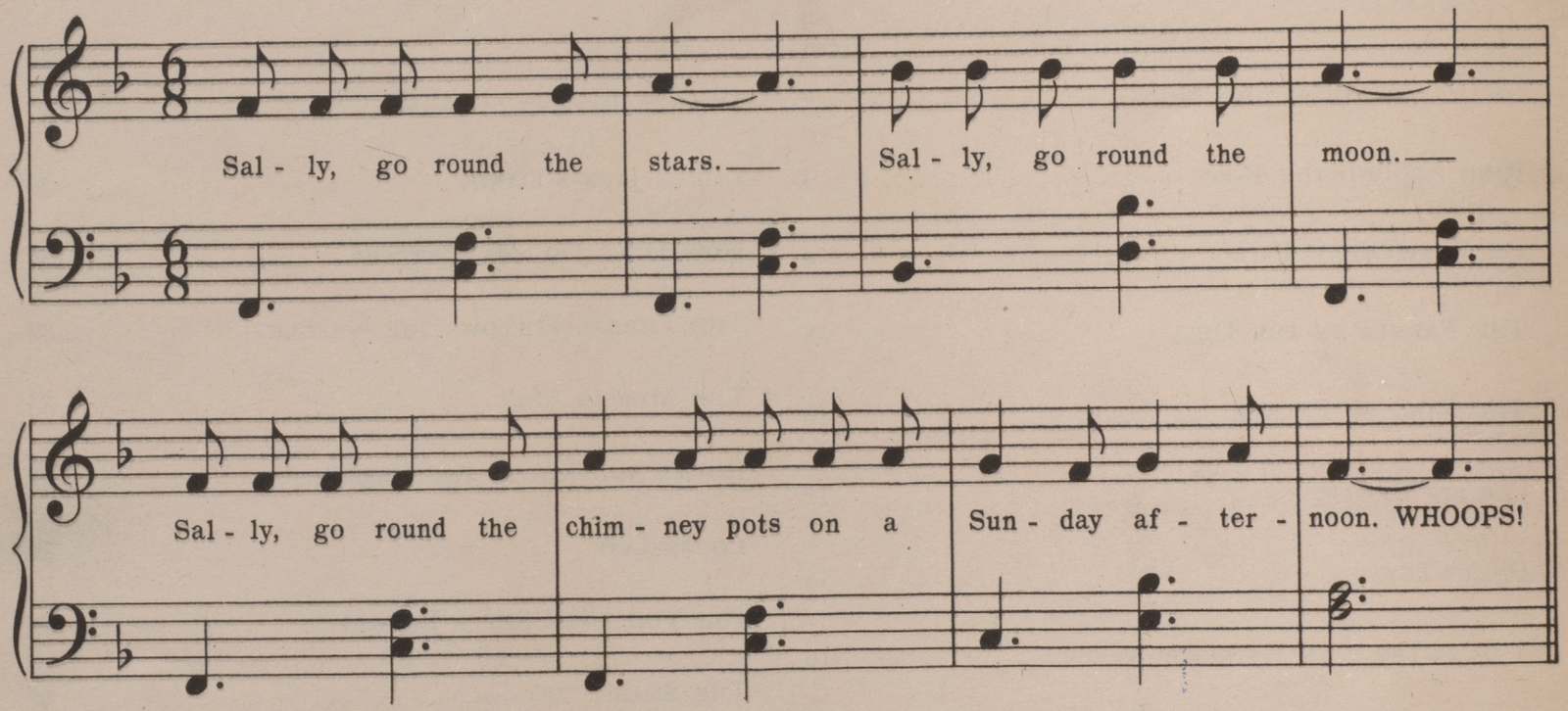
SALLY, GO ROUND THE MOON

English



1. Make circle. As children sing song, they slide sideways to the right.
2. At the word 'Whoops,' children drop hands, jump into the air and clap.
3. Repeat song and this time slide to the left.

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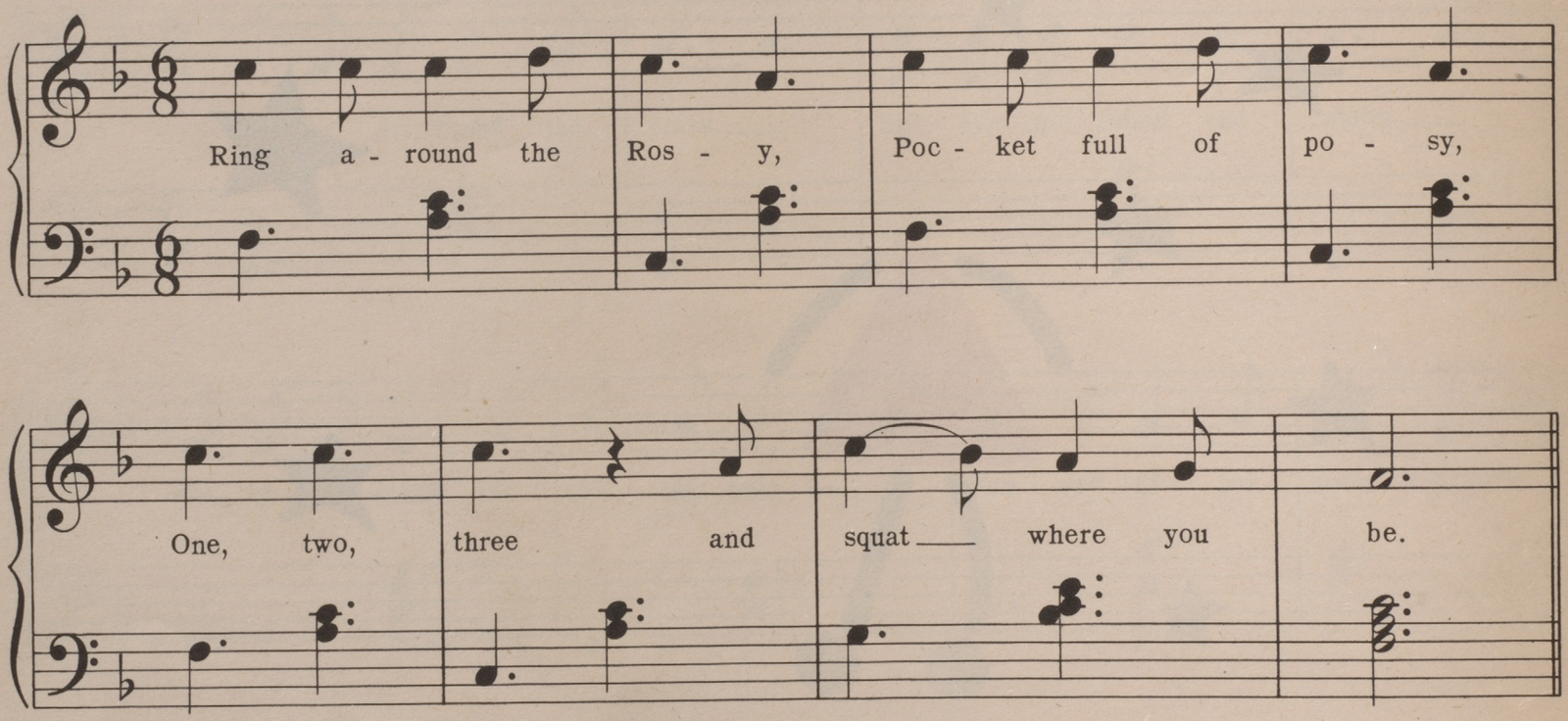
RING AROUND THE ROSY

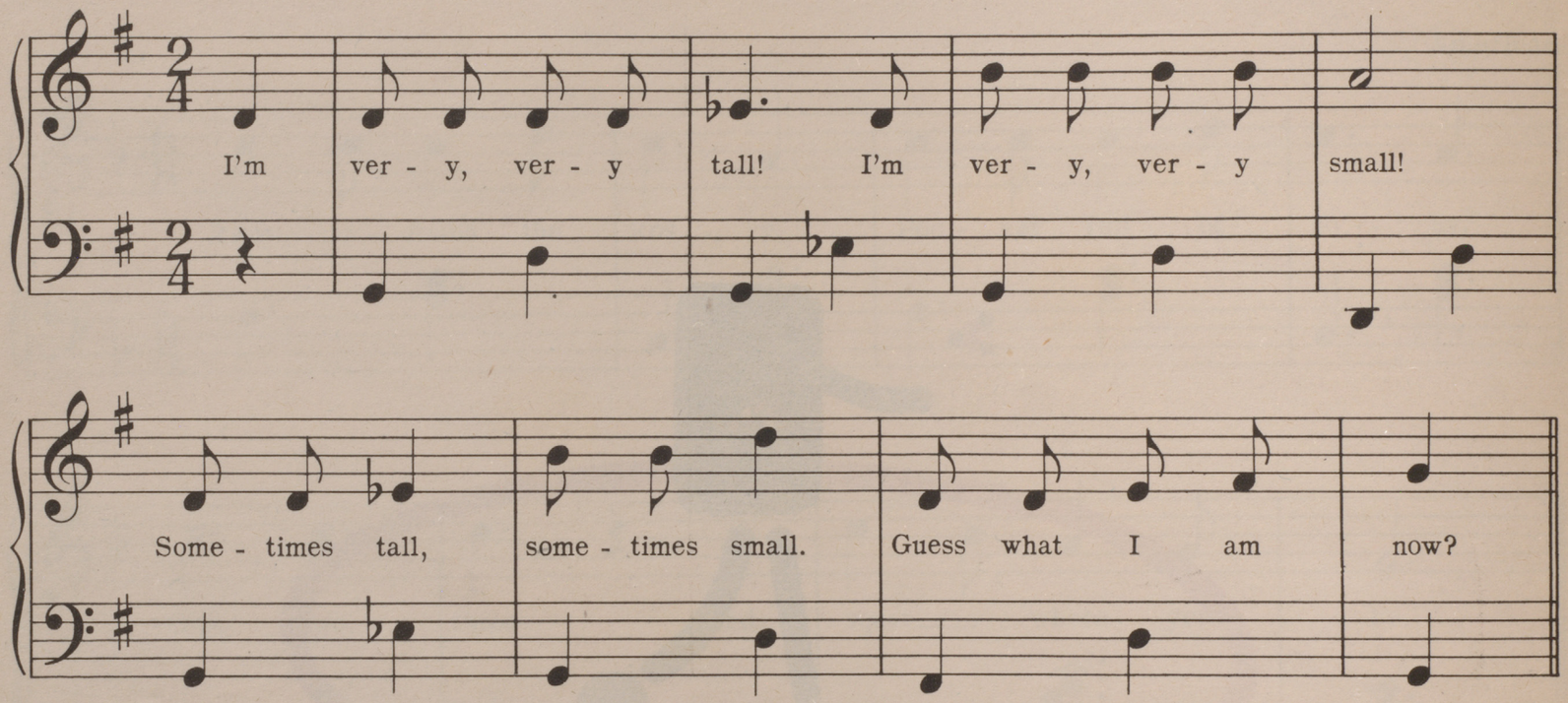
American



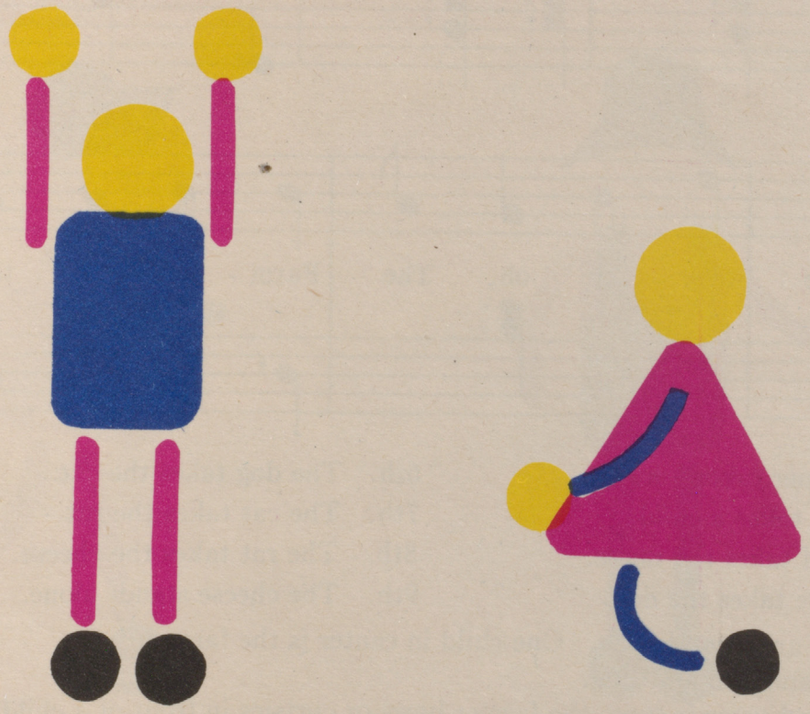
1. Form circle and slide to the right.
2. At the word, 'squat,' children drop to the floor.
3. Repeat song and slide to the left.

I'M VERY, VERY TALL

American

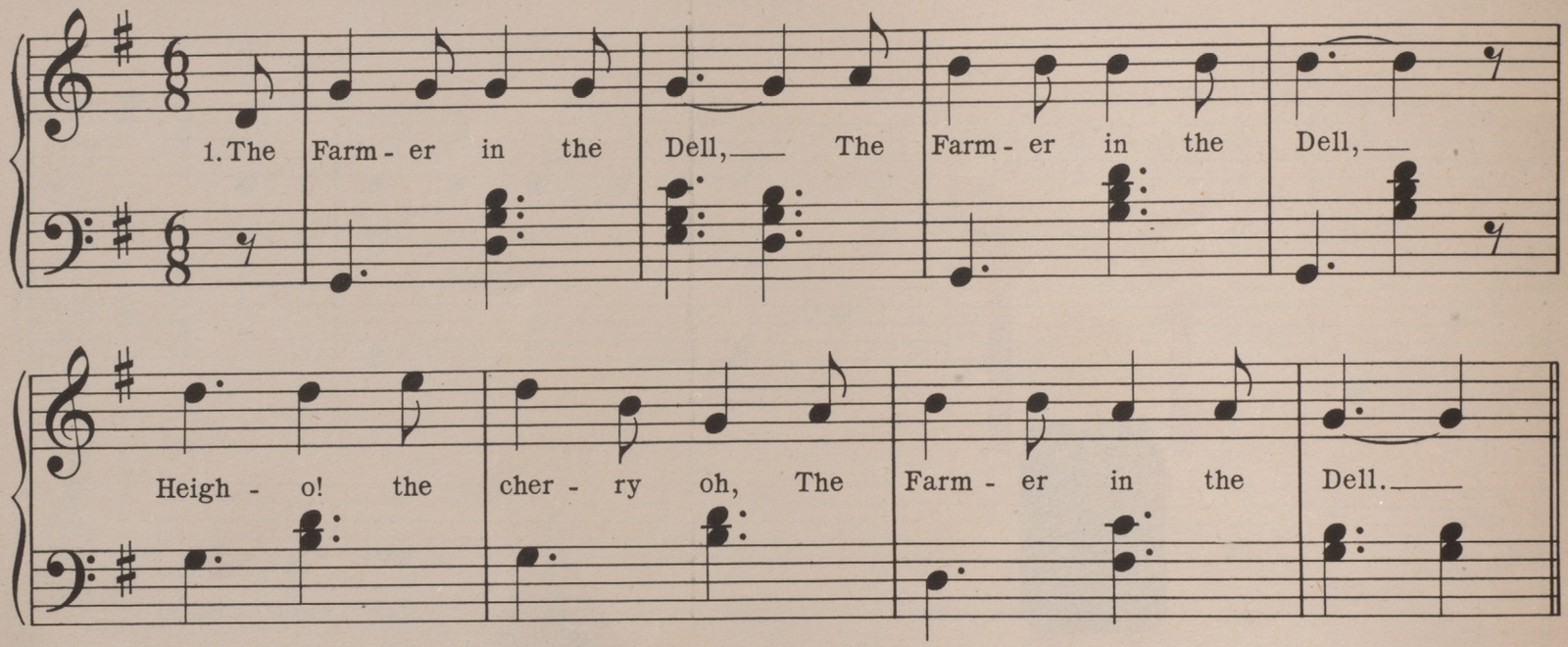


1. Make circle. Drop hands. One child stands in center with eyes closed.
2. At words, 'I'm very, very tall,' children stretch high and stand on tip-toe.
3. At words, 'I'm very, very small,' children squat very low.
4. At words, 'Guess what I am now?' child in center guesses 'tall' or 'small.'
5. If the answer is correct, the children in circle clap.
6. Child in center makes a curtsey in front of some one in circle.



THE FARMER IN THE DELL

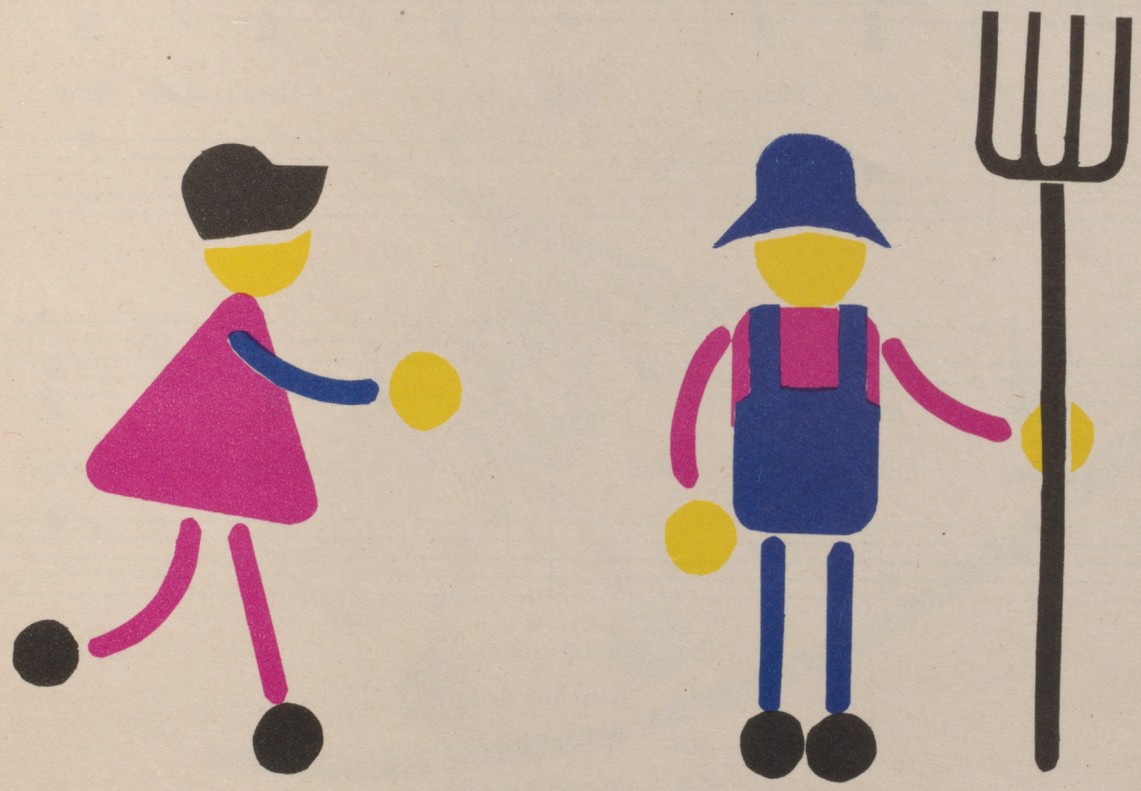
American



2nd. The Farmer takes a wife.
3rd. The wife takes a child.
4th. The child takes the nurse.
5th. The nurse takes the dog.
6th. The dog takes the cat.
7th. The cat takes the rat.
8th. The rat takes the cheese.
9th. The cheese stands alone.

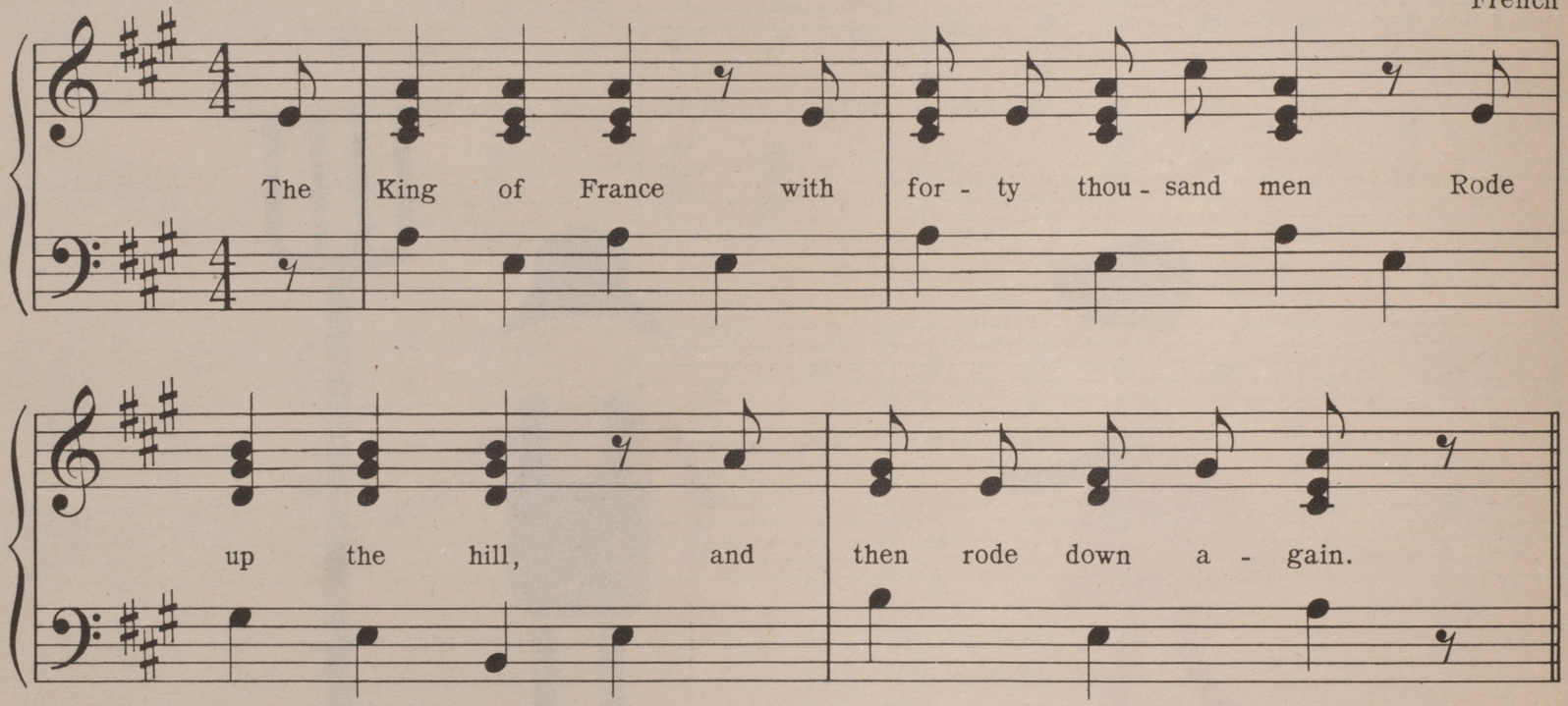
1. Form circle and drop hands. One child in center is the farmer.
2. Children stand still and sing.
3. As the second verse is sung, the farmer bows or curtsies in front of a child in the circle. That child is the wife.
4. The wife stands with the farmer until 'The wife takes a child.' The wife bows or curtsies before another child
5. As the song progresses, each child chosen chooses the next child.
6. At the words, 'The cheese stands alone,' all return to the circle except the last child chosen.
7. This child is then the farmer for repetition of the game.
8. If the group numbers twenty or more, the circle may walk as the song is sung.

Victor Record 21618



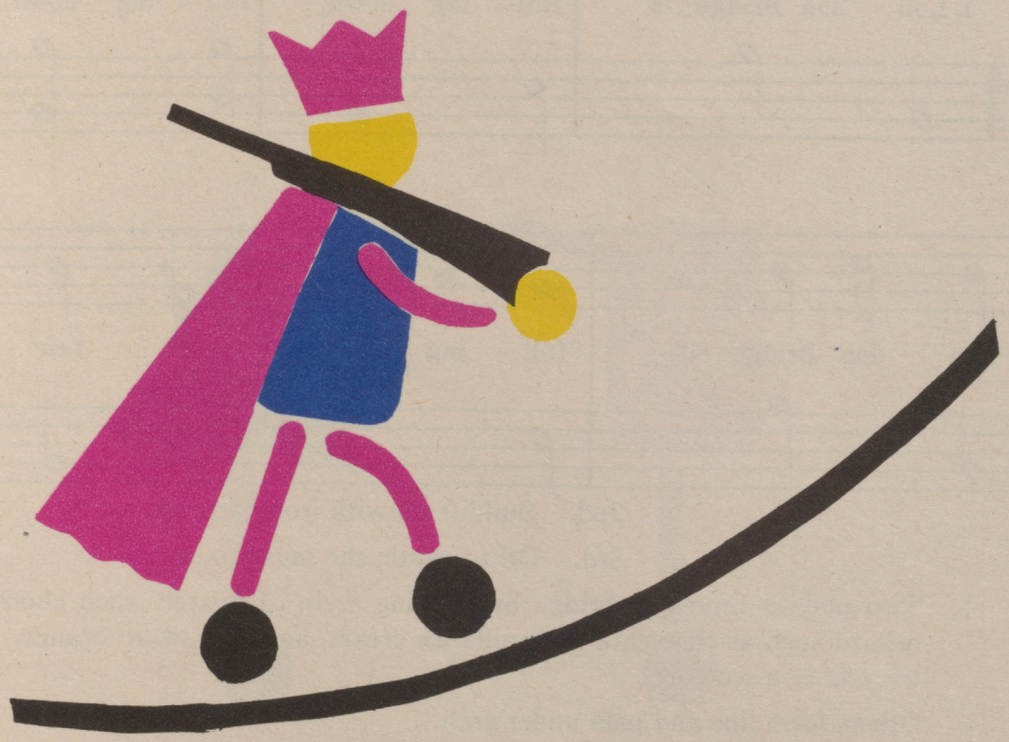
THE KING OF FRANCE

French



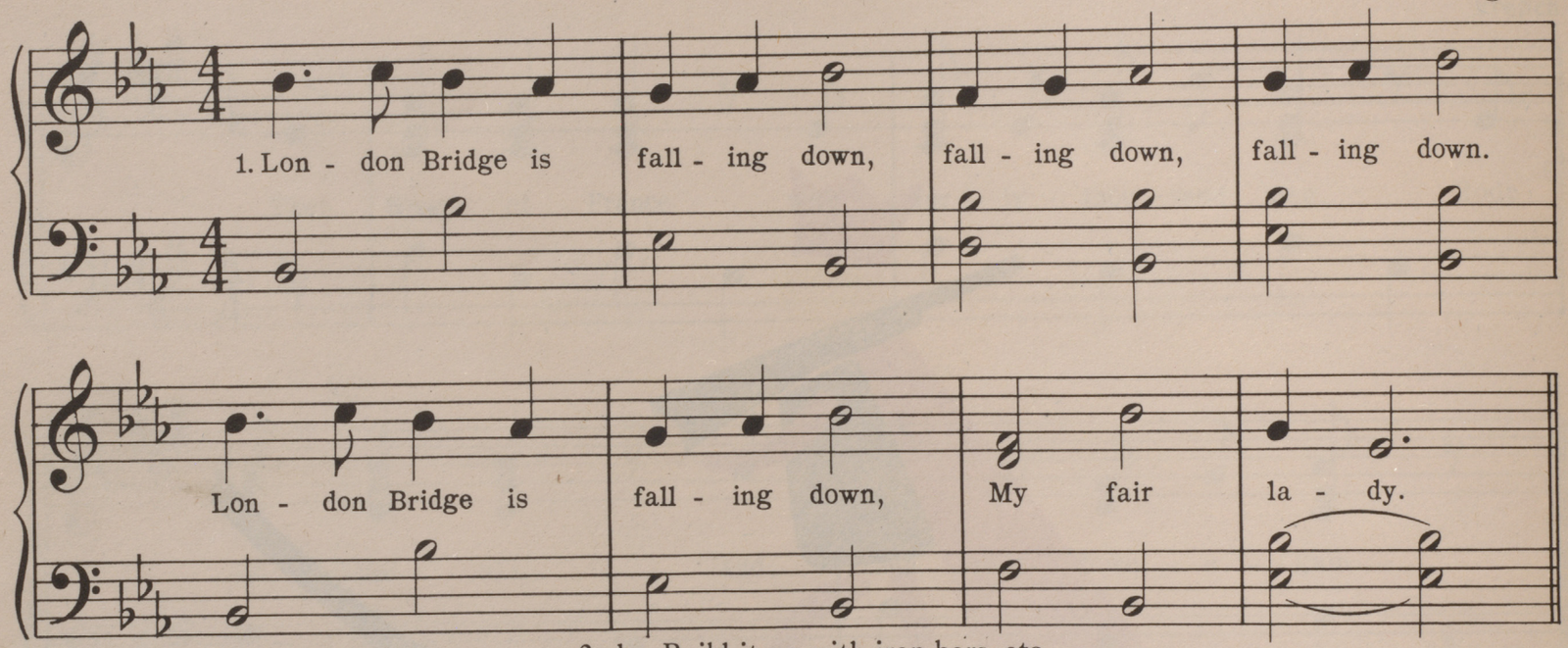
2nd. Gave a salute.
3rd. Beat his drum.
4th. Waved his flag.
5th. Aimed his gun.
6th. Blew his horn.
7th. Drew his sword.
8th. Shouldered arms.

1. Form a circle and drop hands. All sing.
2. One child in the center is the King and imitates any of the activities suggested in the song. The group follows.
3. After about four verses, choose a new king.



LONDON BRIDGE

English



2nd. Build it up with iron bars, etc.

3rd. Off to prison she must go, etc.

1. Two players represent bridge by forming arch. Privately each chooses a symbolical reward such as chocolate or vanilla ice cream, an apple or an orange, blue or green, a tricycle or a scooter.
2. Others form line and pass under arch.
3. At words, 'My fair lady,' the arms of the bridge fall, catching whoever is passing under.
4. The child caught is taken aside and asked to choose between rewards offered.
5. After making choice, prisoner stands behind the side of bridge whose symbol he has chosen.
6. Repeat until all are caught and lined up behind one side of bridge or other.
7. A tug of war, across line drawn between the two sides of bridge, follows to determine the winning side.

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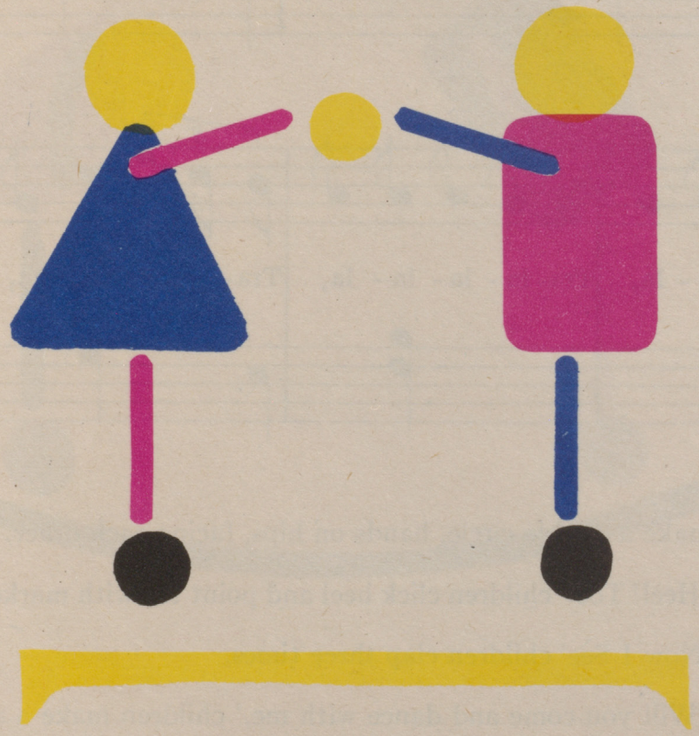
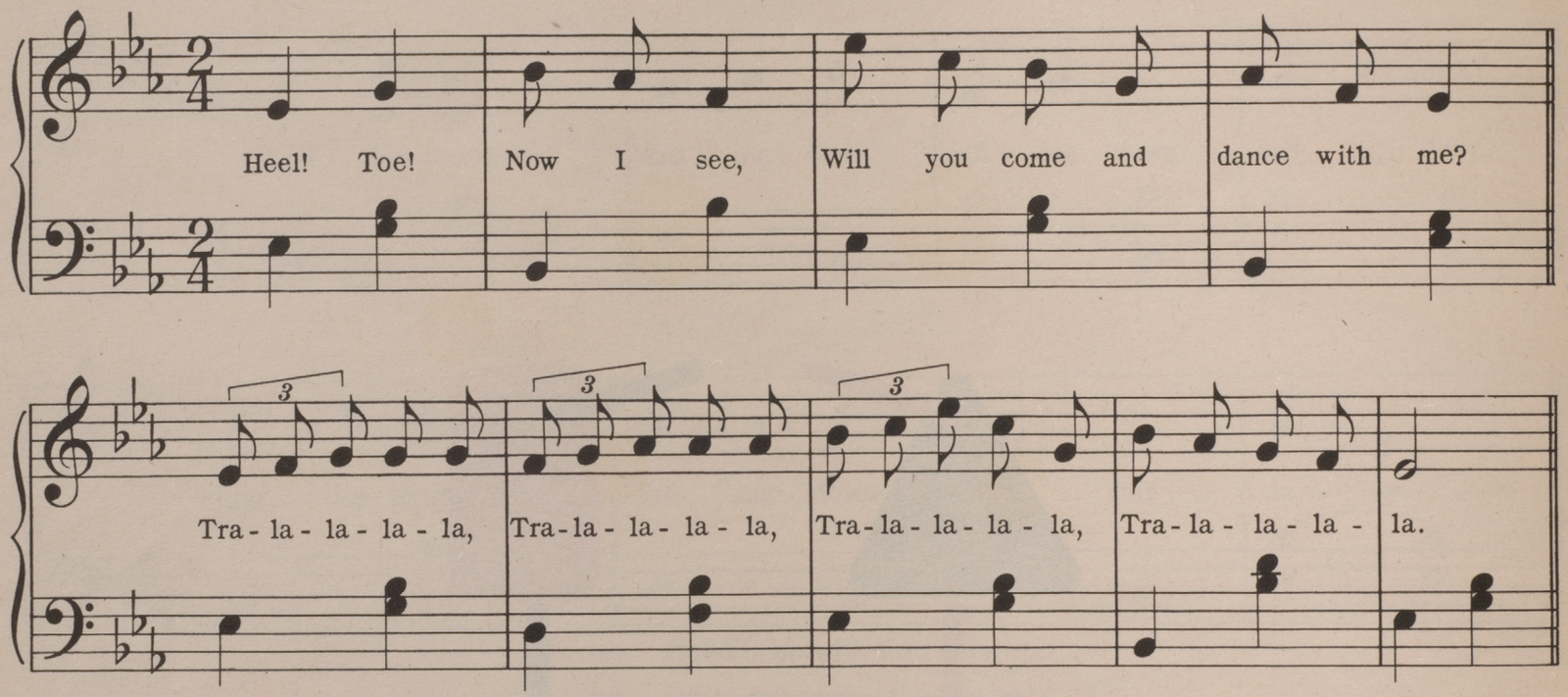
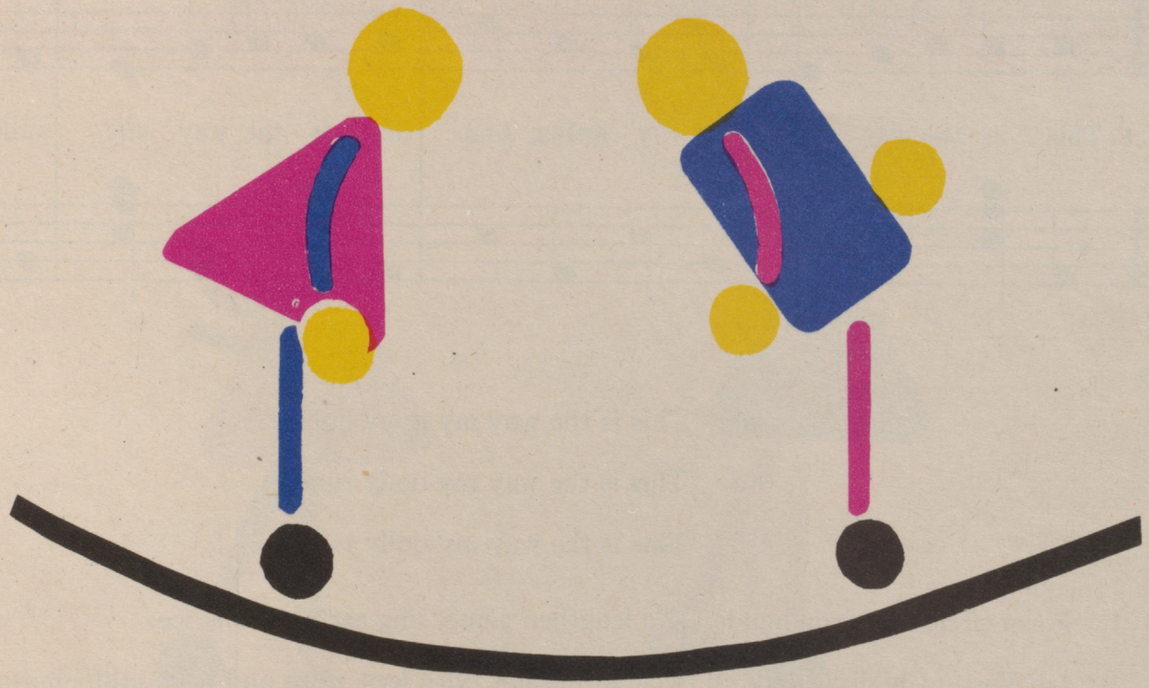


HEEL! TOE!

Alice P. Hamlin

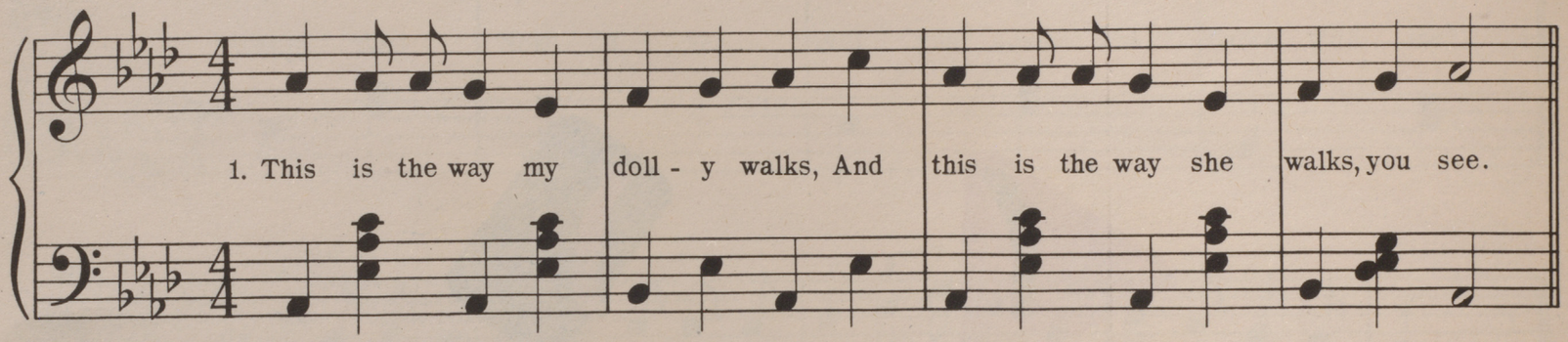


1. Children make a double circle, hands on hips, facing each other.
2. At words 'Heel! Toe!' children click heel and point toe with marked time.
3. At words 'Now I See' children clap three times.
4. At words 'Will you come and dance with me,' children make a slow bow or curtsey to partner.
5. At beginning of chorus, partners join hands and slide to right.
6. At end of chorus, outside children move to the right to a new partner.



THIS IS THE WAY MY DOLLY WALKS

American

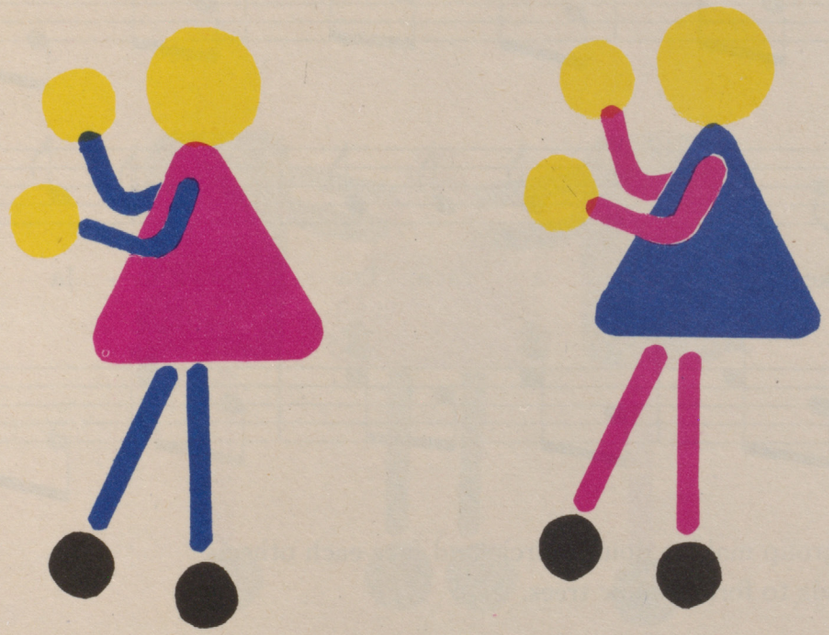


2nd. This is the way my dolly hops.

3rd. This is the way my dolly runs.

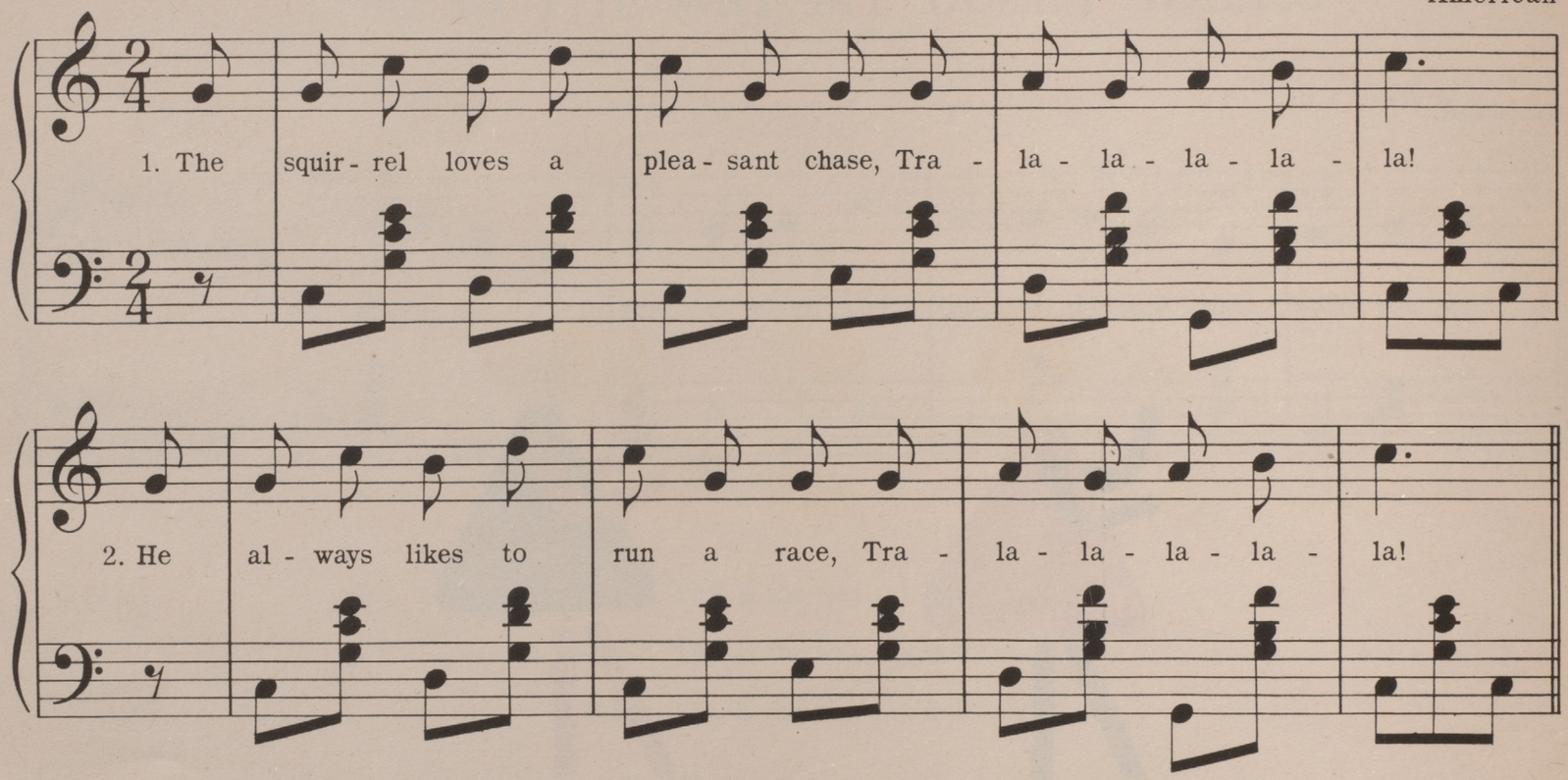
4th. This is the way my dolly talks.

1. Form circle and drop hands. To lengthen game, sing each verse twice.
2. 1st. Verse; Children walk, in circle formation, with legs, arms and body stiff—imitating a doll.
3. 2nd. Verse; Children hop.
4. 3rd. Verse; Children run, singing in faster tempo.
5. 4th. Verse; Children stand still and face circle until end of verse. Then with arms rigid but loose at shoulders bend forward and say "Ma-ma" about four times.

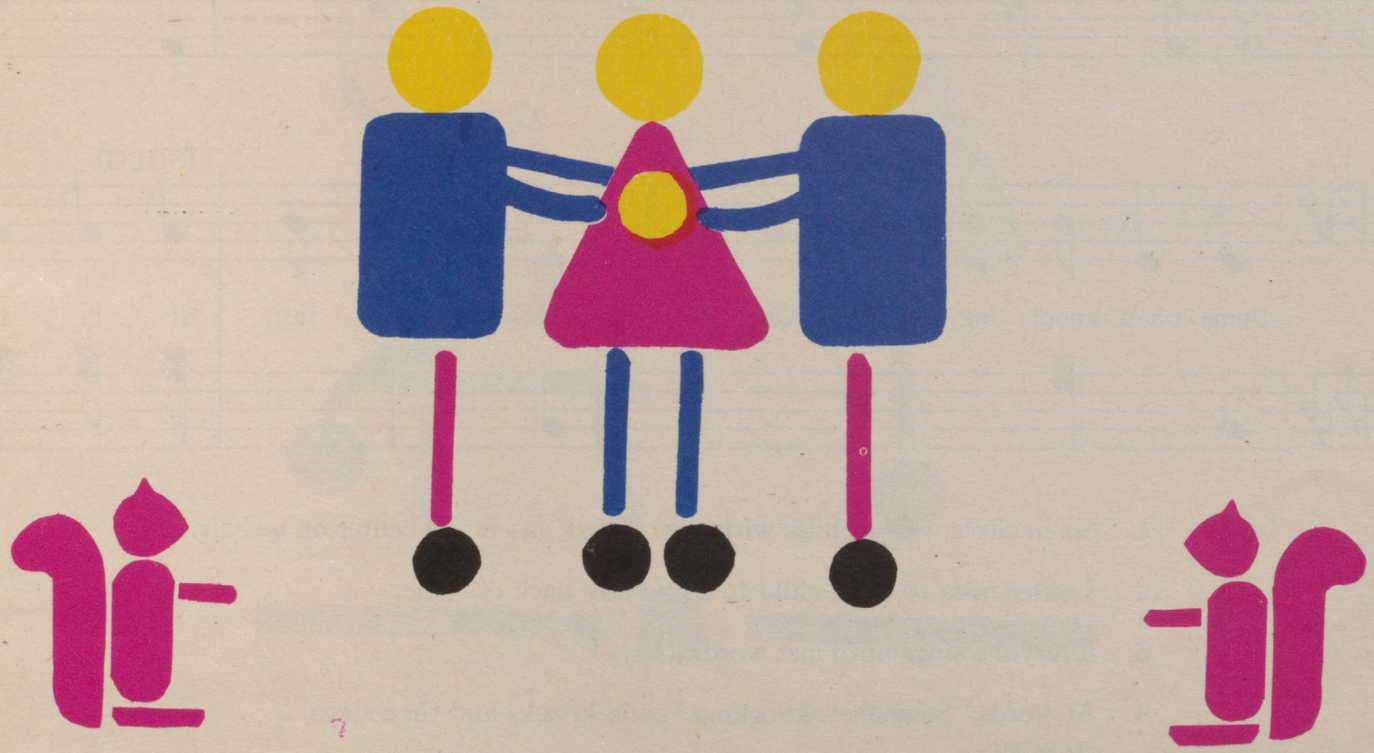


SQUIRREL IN THE TREE

American

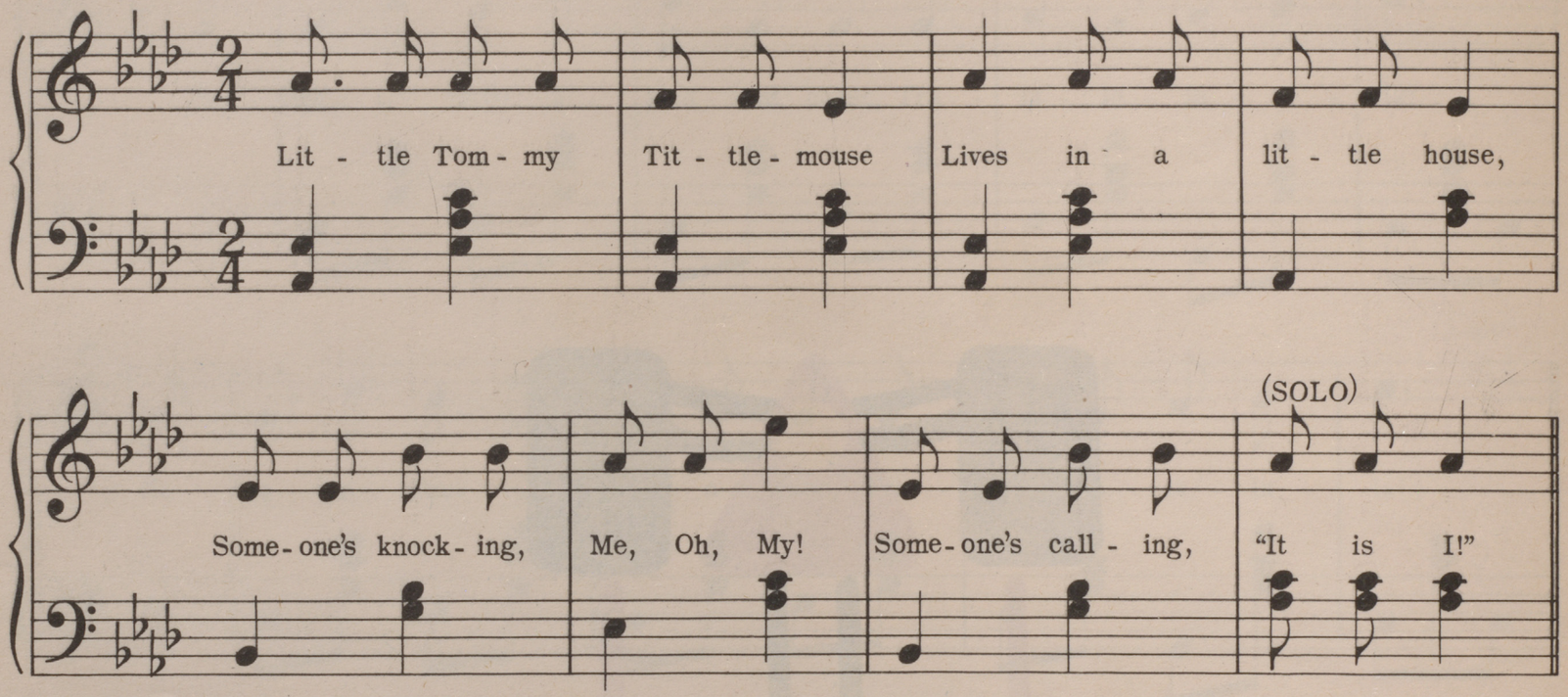


1. Part of group make a double circle and face each other. Join hands to form hollow trees.
2. Remaining children stand in hollow trees as squirrels.
3. Extra children stand inside double circle as squirrels also.
4. As music begins, all squirrels skip inside circle.
5. As music ends, each squirrel seeks a hollow tree—extra squirrels return to center.
6. Repeat game three or four times. Then the trees and squirrels change places.

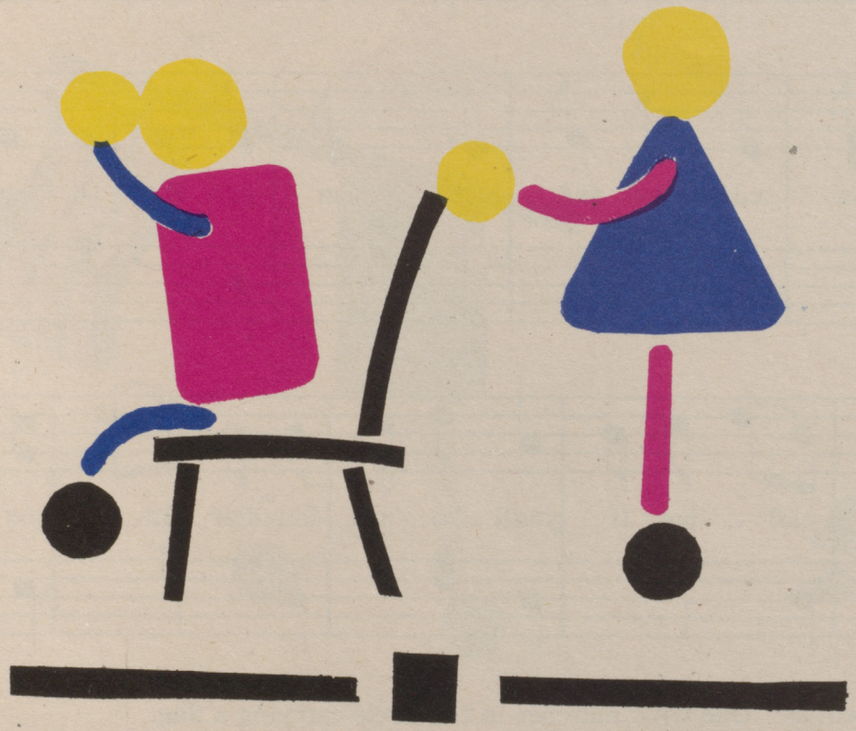


LITTLE TOMMY TITTLEMOUSE

Alice P. Hamlin



1. Sit in circle. One child, with eyes closed, sits in the center on a chair.
2. Leader nods to some child to go quietly back of chair.
3. Everyone sings until last words, 'It is I!'
4. At words, 'Someone's knocking,' child knocks and then sings, 'It is I!'
5. Child in chair guesses name of person behind him.
6. If correct, the children clap.
7. The child who 'knocked' is now IT.



SOLDIER BOY

American

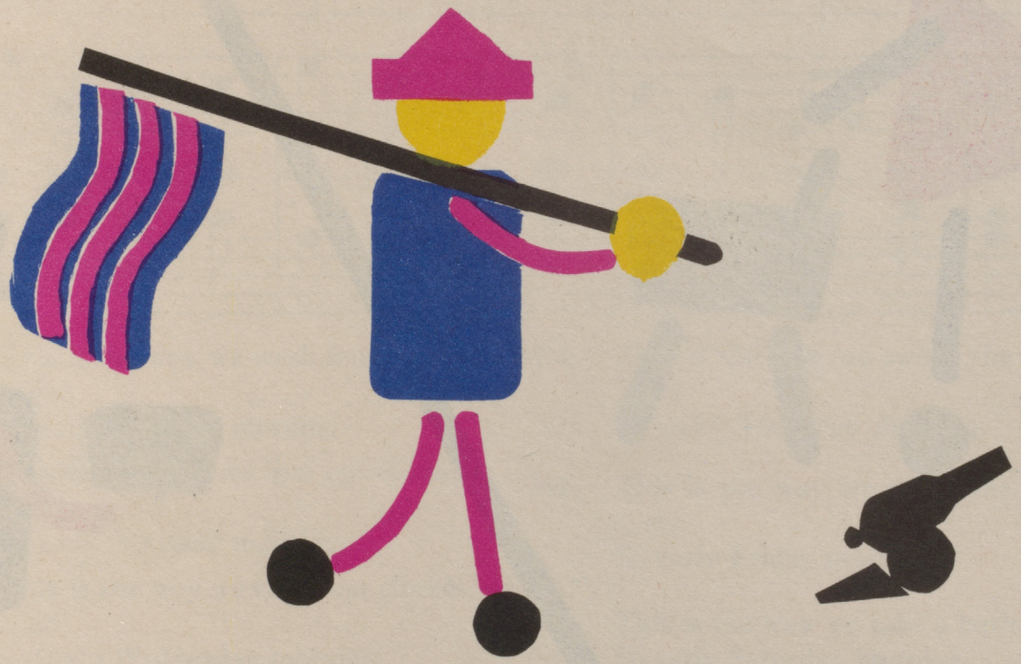
Sol - dier Boy, Sol - dier Boy, Where_ are you go - ing, Wav - ing so

proud - ly the red, white and blue? "I'm go - ing to my coun - try where

du - ty is call - ing, If you'll be a Sol-dier Boy,_ you may come too!"

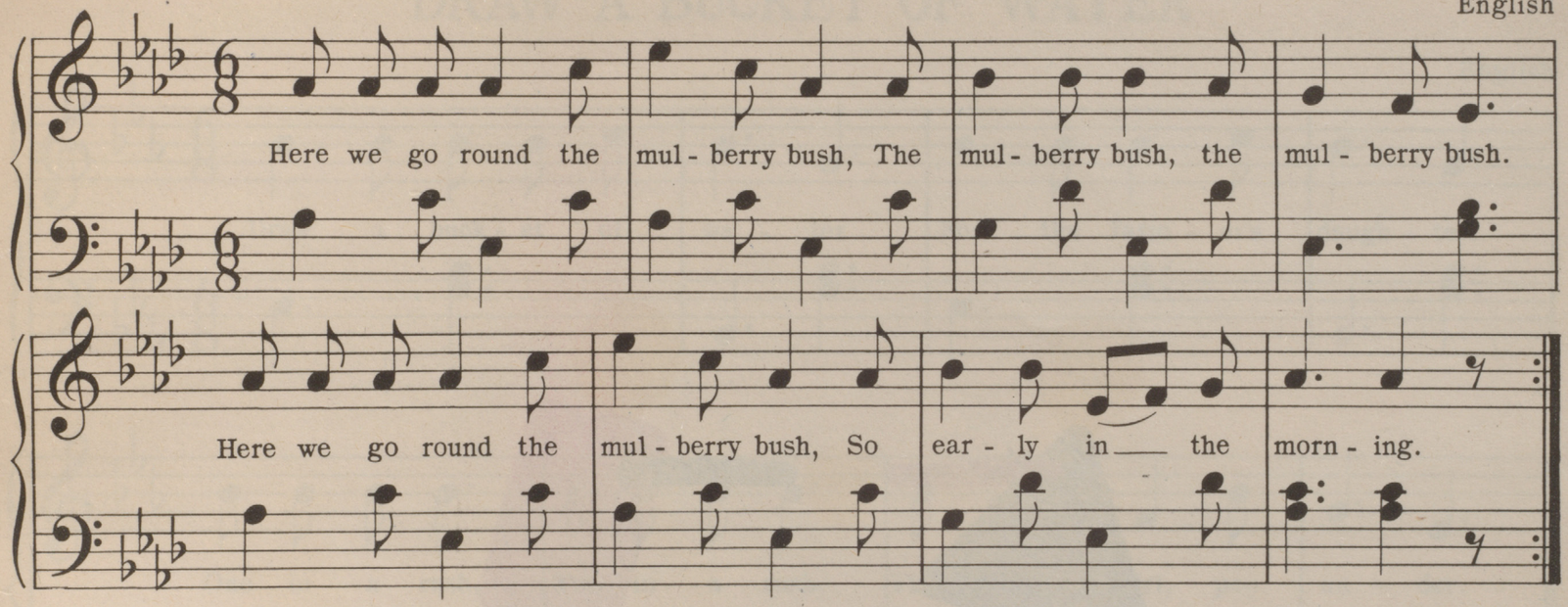
1. Form a circle. One child marches in the circle carrying a flag.
2. At words, "If you'll be a Soldier Boy," child stops in front of some child in the circle.
3. As the song is repeated, child from the circle joins the soldier.
4. Repeat until all in the ring are soldiers and are marching in a circle.
5. If the group is large, divide it into circles of about ten.

Victor Record 20806



THE MULBERRY BUSH

English



1st. This is the way we wash our clothes, etc.
So early Monday morning.

2nd. This is the way we iron our clothes, etc.,
So early Tuesday morning.

3rd. This is the way we mend our clothes, etc.,
So early Wednesday morning.

4th. This is the way we sweep the floor, etc.,
So early Thursday morning.

5th. This is the way we scrub the floor, etc.,
So early Friday morning.

6th. This is the way we take a bath, etc.,
So early Saturday morning.

7th. This is the way we go to Church, etc.,
So early Sunday morning.

1. Form circle. While singing the chorus, the group slides to the right.
2. While singing the first verse, the children face the center and pantomime the action.
3. Repeat, alternating the chorus and verse.

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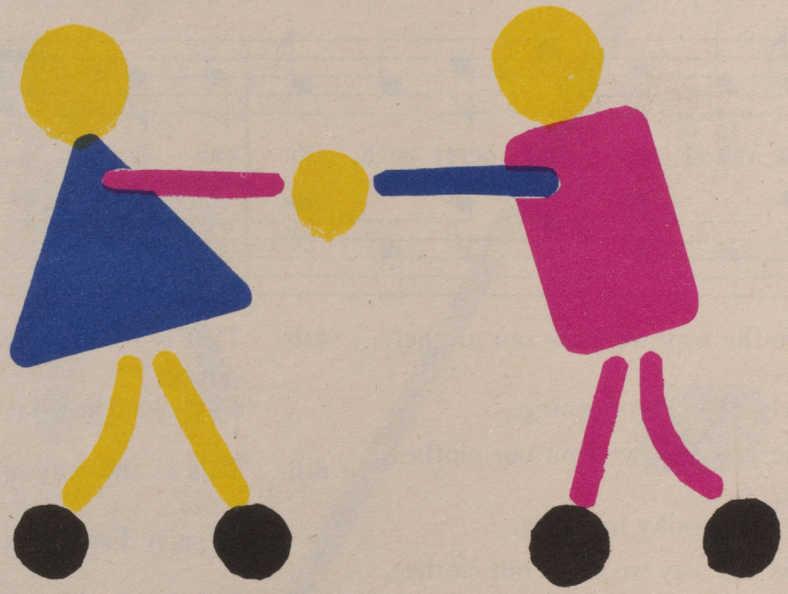
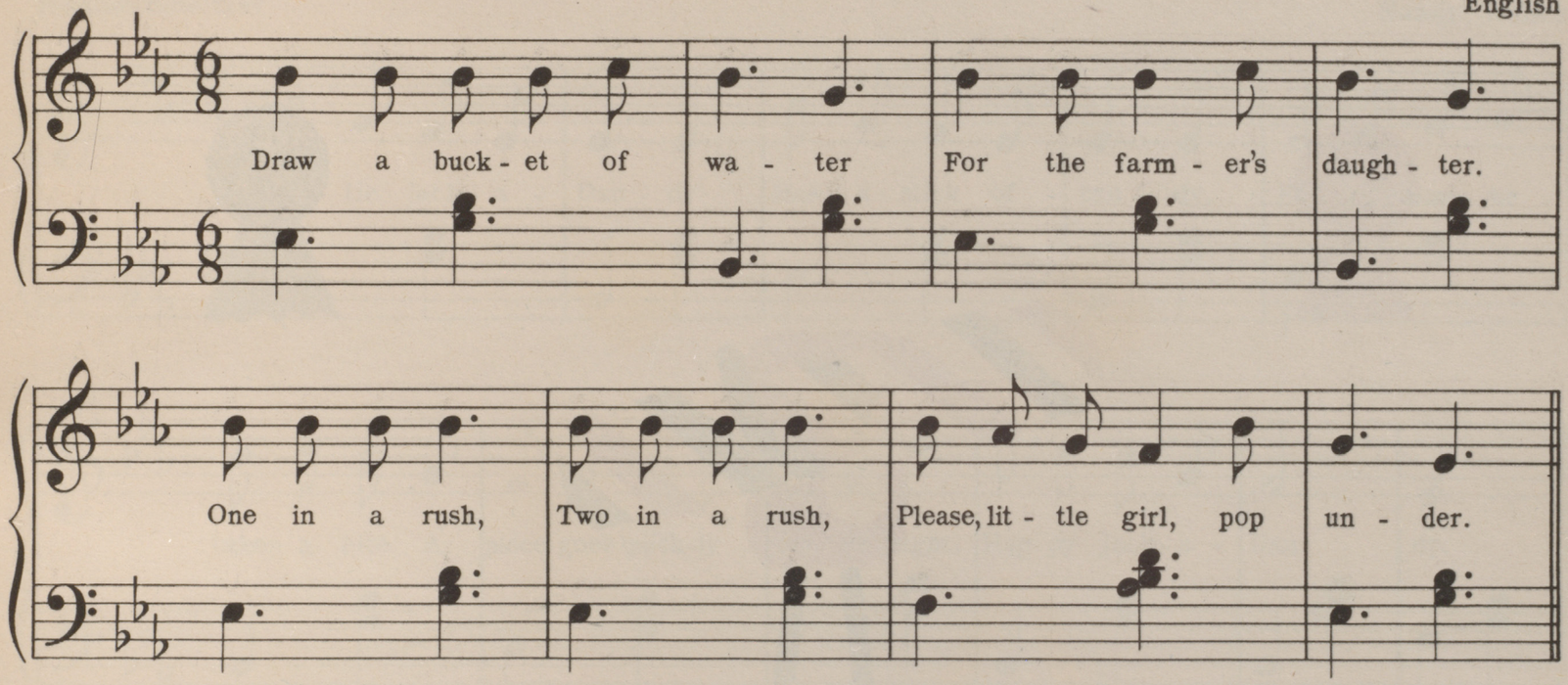


DRAW A BUCKET OF WATER

English

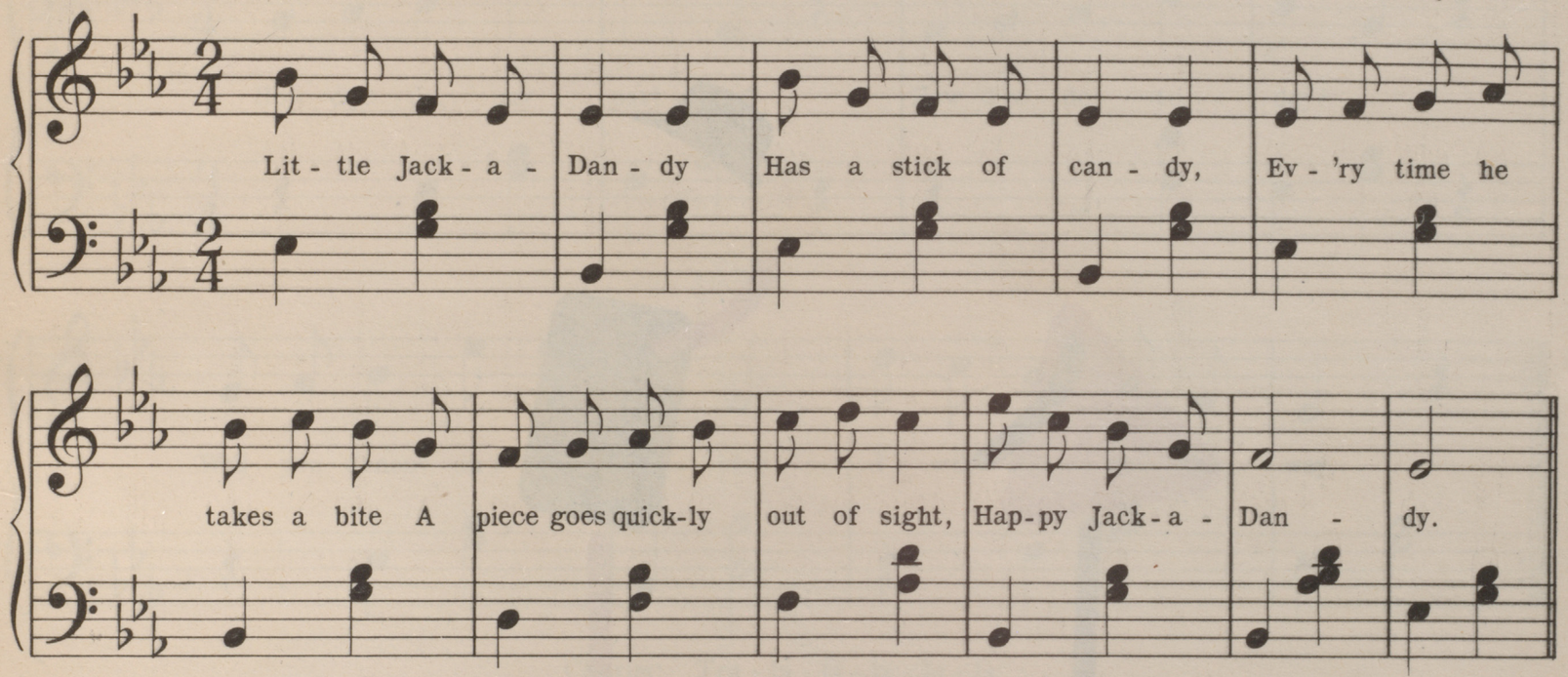


1. Choose partners. Couples cross hands.
2. As the children sing, couples see-saw to music.
3. At words 'Pop under,' each child stoops under arms of neighbors.
4. Repeat song. This time each unit slides to the right in a small circle.
5. At words 'Pop under,' each child stoops under arms of neighbors back to original position.

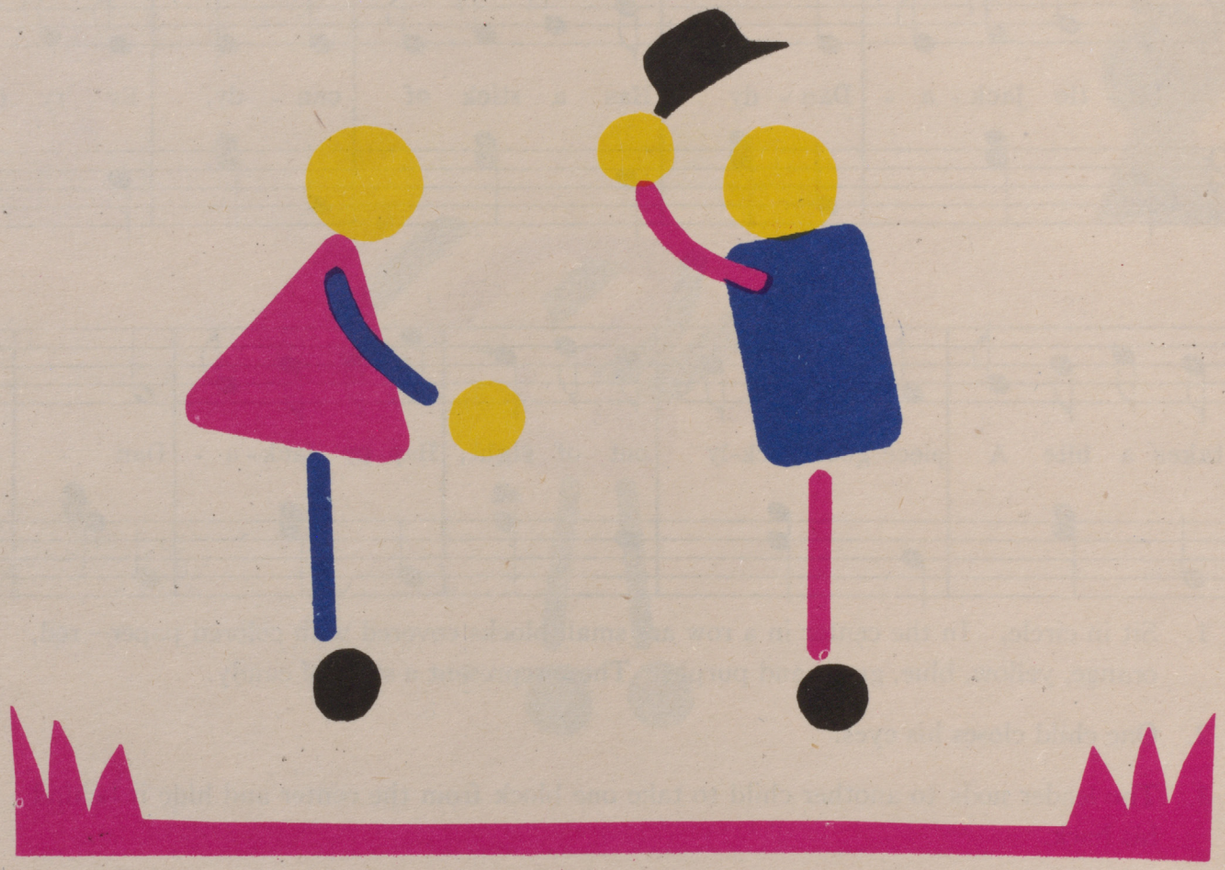
LITTLE JACK-A-DANDY

Jeannie Smeltzer

Nancy Welles

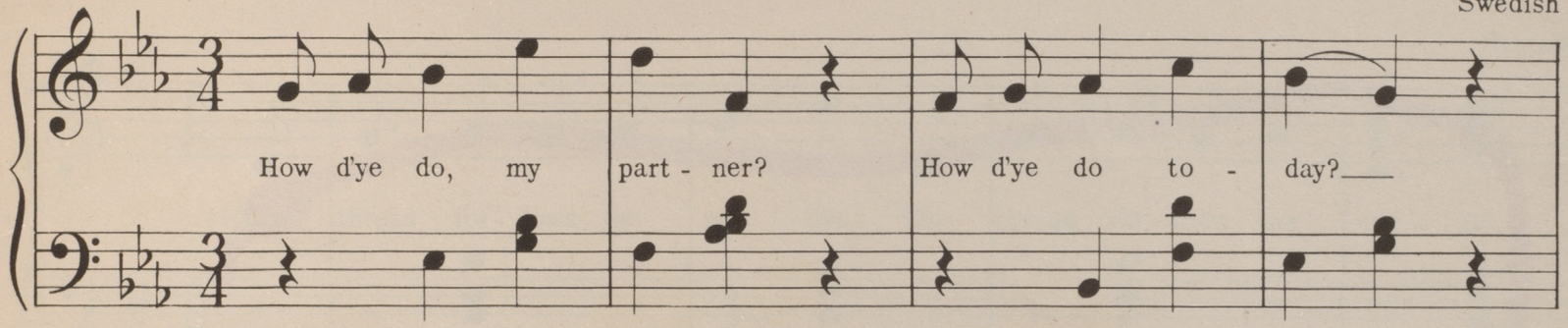


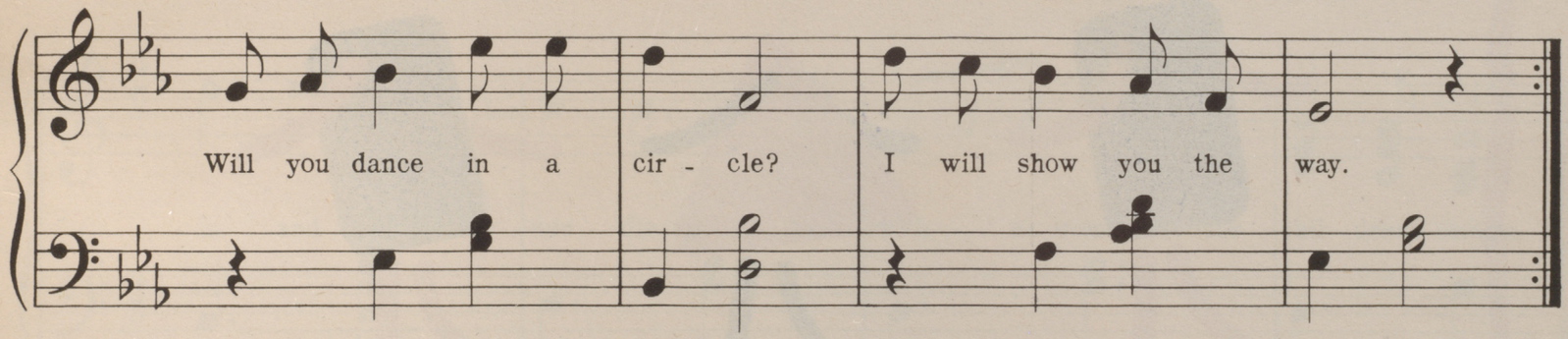
1. Sit in circle. In the center in a row are small blocks covered with colored paper—red, orange, yellow, blue, green and purple. These represent a stick of candy.
2. One child closes his eyes.
3. The leader nods to another child to take one block from the center and hide it behind his back.
4. As the song ends, the child whose eyes are closed, opens his eyes and guesses the missing color.
5. If he guesses correctly, the children clap.
6. The other child returns the block and becomes 'IT.'
7. As the children's color sense develops, more than one block may be taken from the circle at a time.



HOW D'YE DO, MY PARTNER

Swedish





Chorus: Tra - la - la - la - la - la.
Tra - la - la - la - la - la.
Tra - la - la - lala - la - la.
I will show you the way.

1. Children make a double circle facing each other.
2. Children make a slow bow or curtsey to partner while singing verse.
3. At beginning of chorus, partners join hands and slide clockwise in circle.
4. At the end of chorus, outside circle moves to the right to a new partner.

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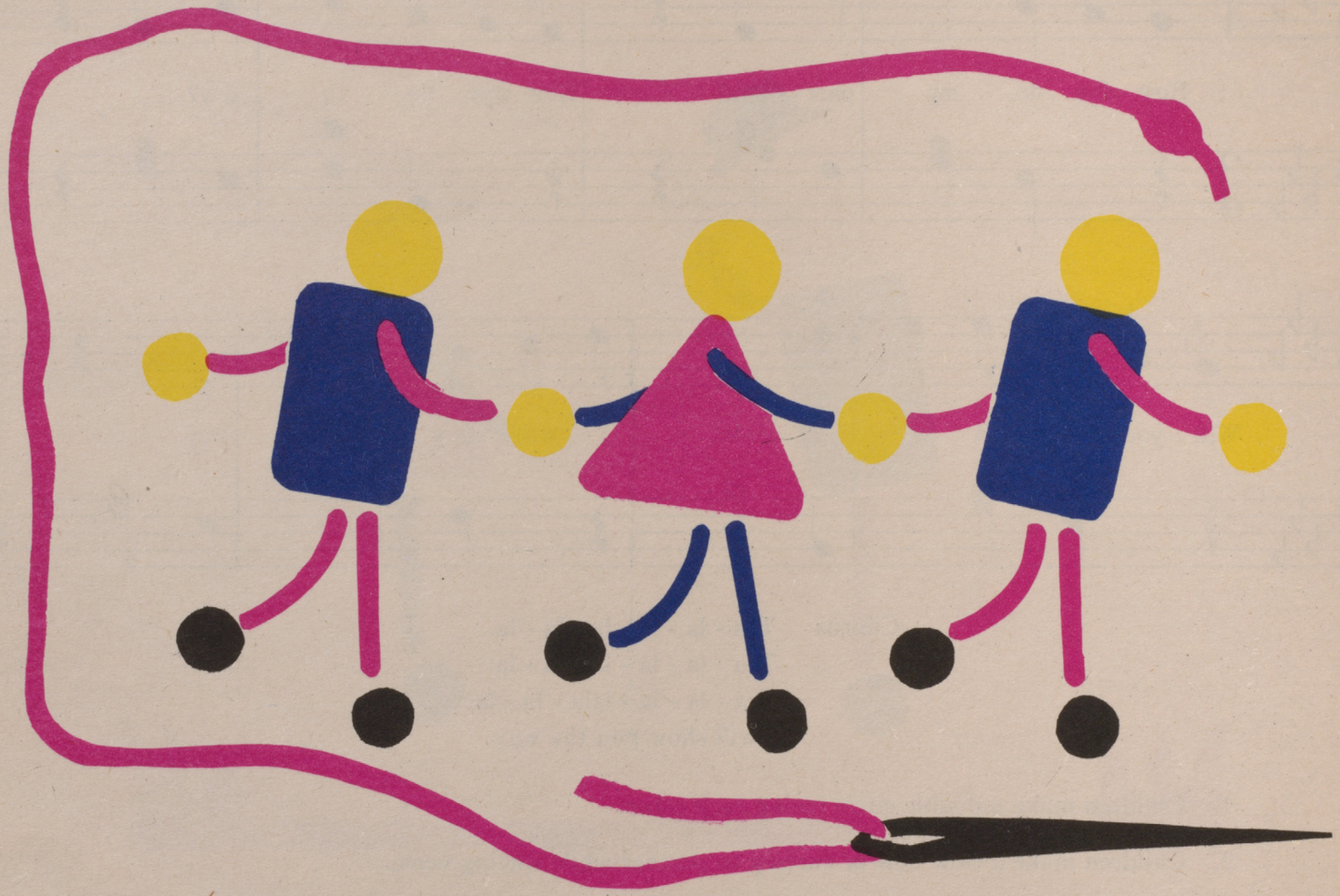
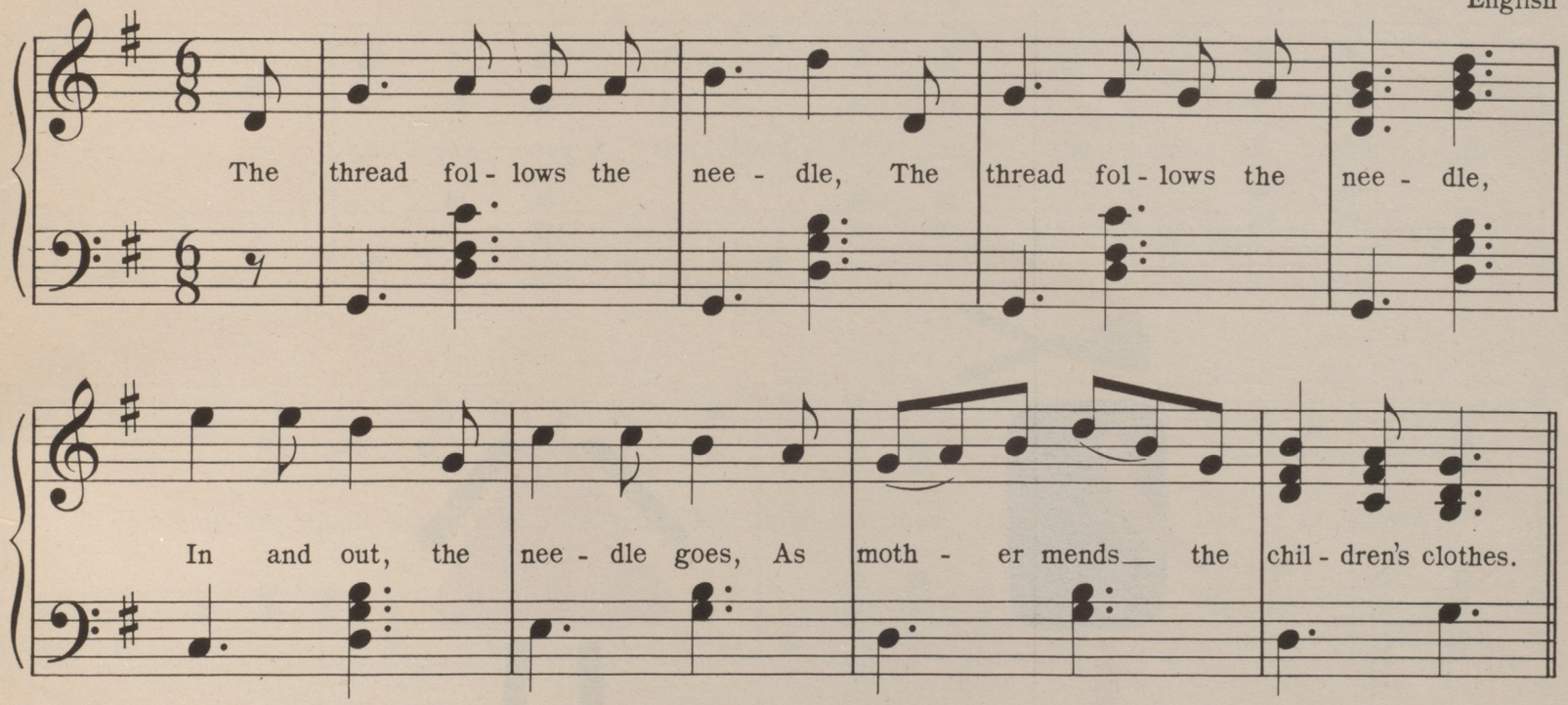


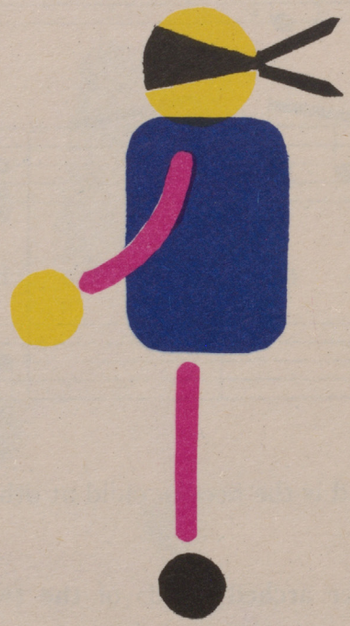
THE THREAD FOLLOWS THE NEEDLE

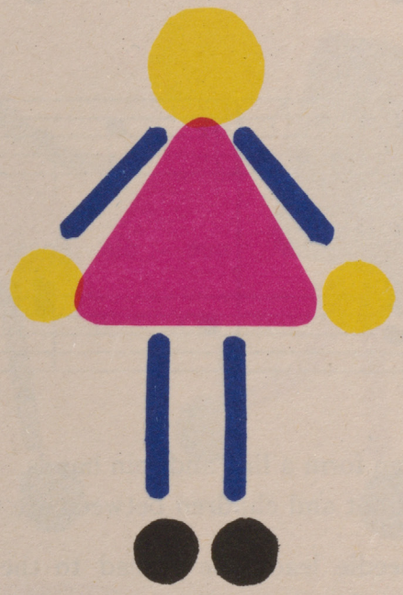
English



1. Children form a line and join hands. Child at one end is the needle, child at other end is the knot and children between are the thread.
2. The needle leads the thread to the knot and under arched hands of the two end children, forming a stitch.
3. The needle now makes a stitch with the second and third end children.
4. The needle continues until all children have formed stitches.
5. At signal from leader, children attempt to unravel stitches without breaking thread.

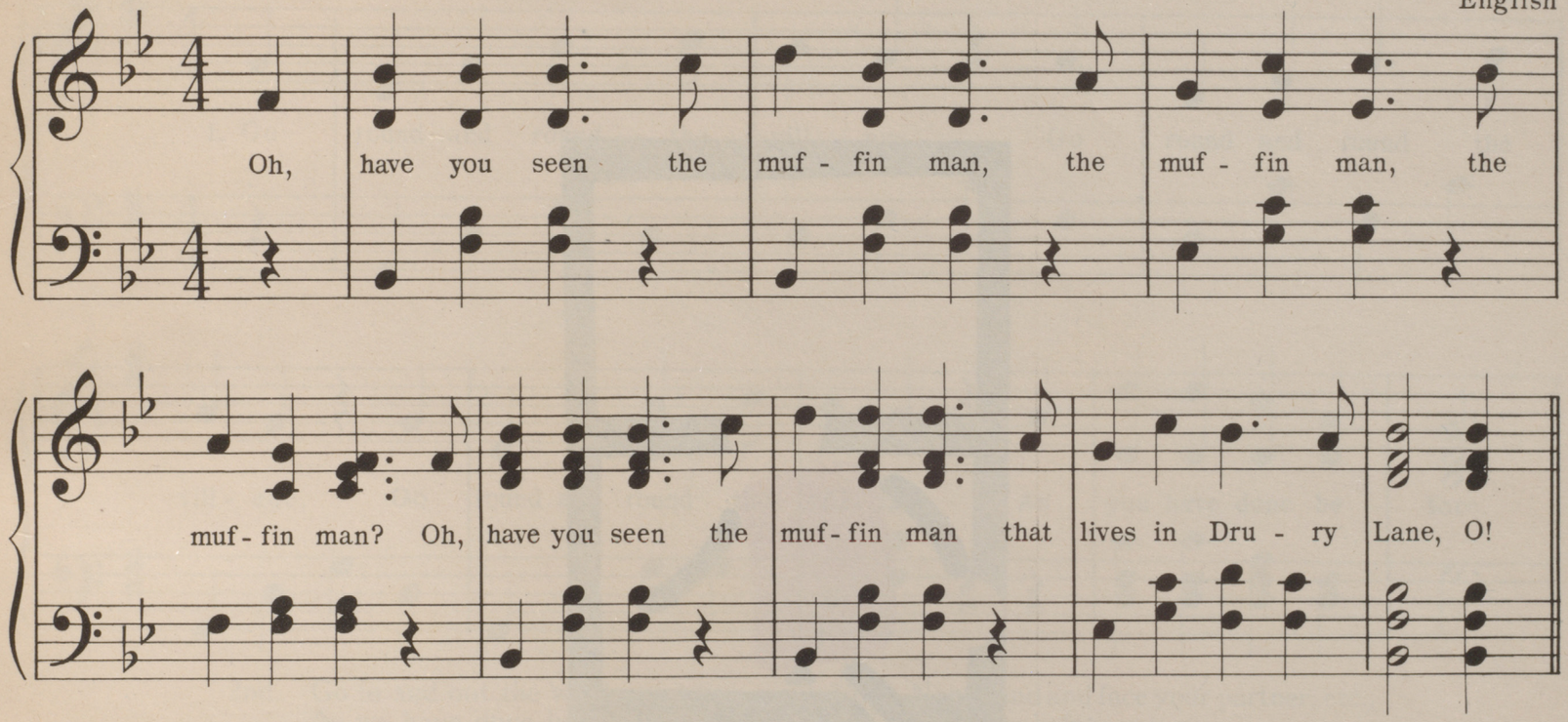
Victor Record 22760





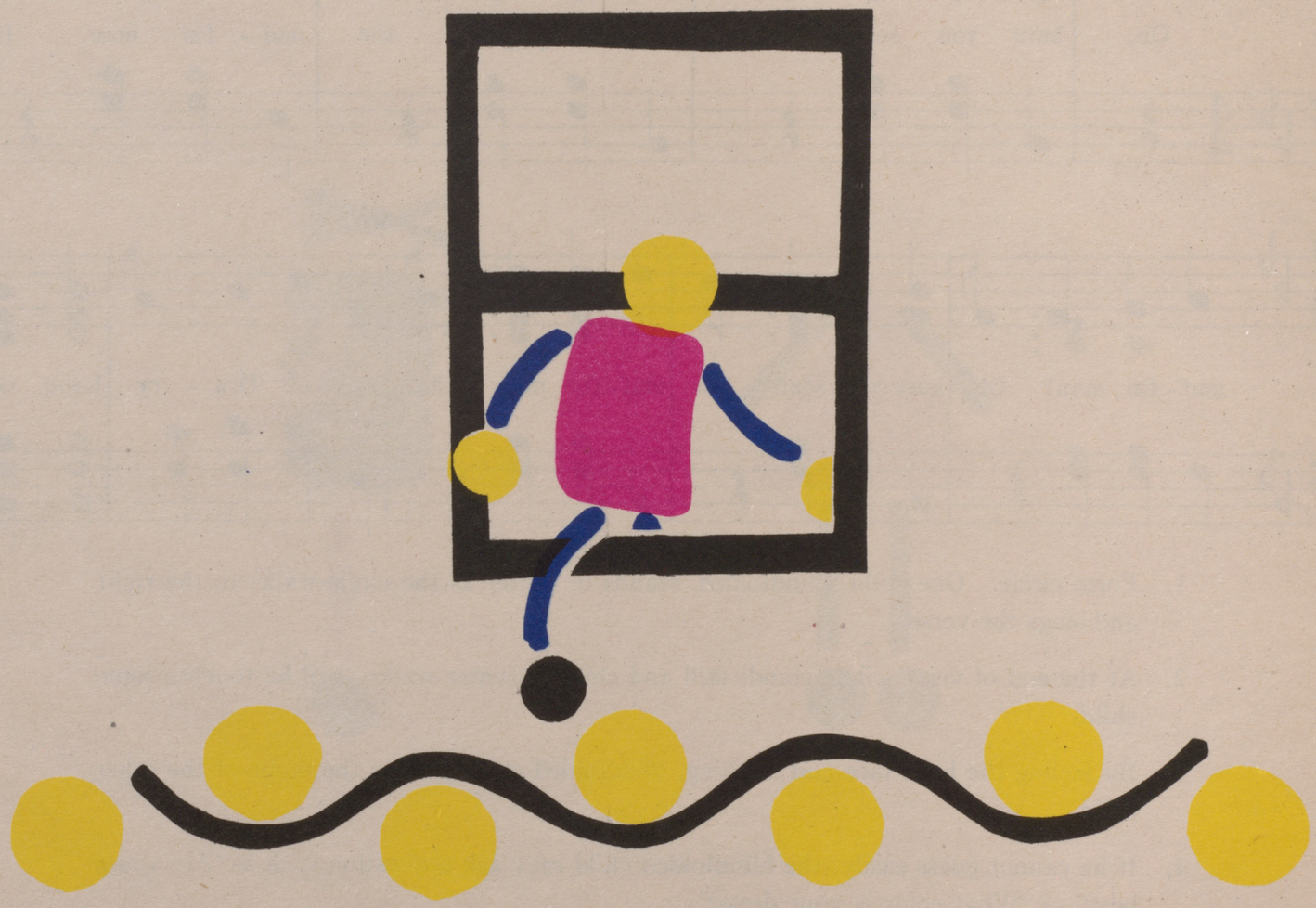
THE MUFFIN MAN

English



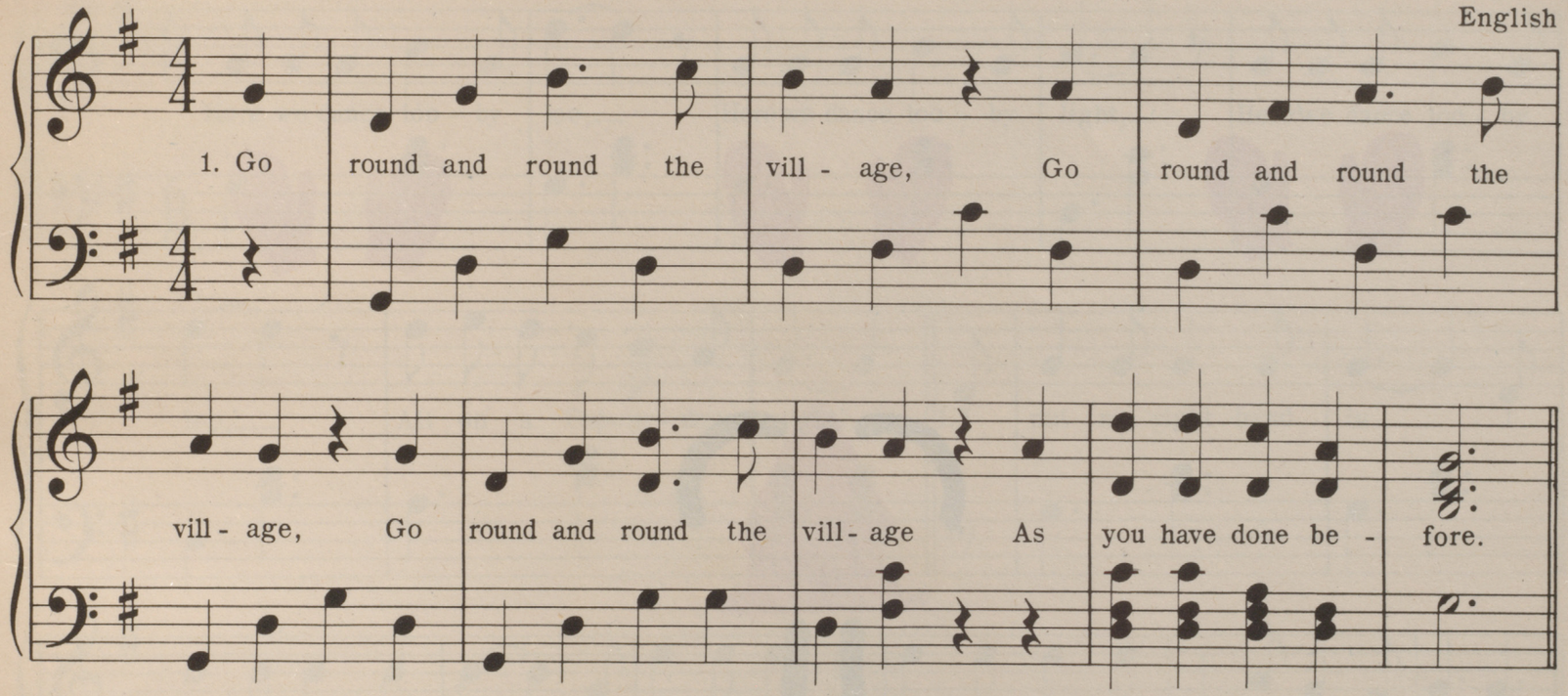
1. Form circle. One child, blindfolded, stands in center as the circle walks to the right and sings the verse.
2. At the end of verse, circle stands still and child in center walks until he touches some child.
3. By feeling the hair, face and clothing, blindfolded child guesses the name of the other child.
4. If he cannot guess easily, the blindfolded child may ask a question such as 'Are you a boy?' or 'What color is your dress?'
5. When a child's name is guessed, he becomes 'IT.'

Victor Record 20806



ROUND AND ROUND THE VILLAGE

English



2nd. Go in and out the window, etc.,
As we have done before.

3rd. Now stand and face your partner, etc.,
And bow before you go.

4th. Now follow me to London, etc.,
As we have done before.

1. Form circle to represent houses. Several players stand outside. (Only one child if the group is small.)
2. First verse; Children outside skip around circle.
3. Second verse; Children in circle raise arms to form windows. Children outside go in and out through windows.
4. Third verse; Children outside go inside and each stands before a child in circle. Bow or curtsey at words 'And bow before you go.'
5. Fourth verse; Children chosen skip in circle following partners.
6. At beginning of new game, the children chosen skip around the village while the other children return to the circle and become houses.

LOOBY LOO

CHORUS

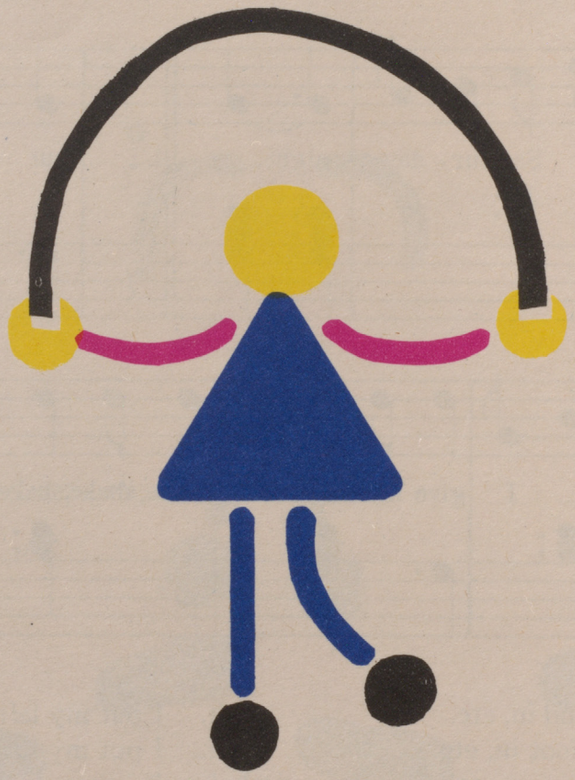
English

Here we dance loo - by loo,— Here we dance loo - by light,— Here we dance loo - by loo,— All on a Sat - ur - day night.— 1. I put my right hand in,— I put my right hand out,— I give my hand a shake, shake, shake and turn my - self a - bout.—

2nd. I put my left hand in, etc.
3rd. I put my right foot in, etc.
4th. I put my left foot in, etc.
5th. I put my head right in, etc.
6th. I put my whole self in, etc.

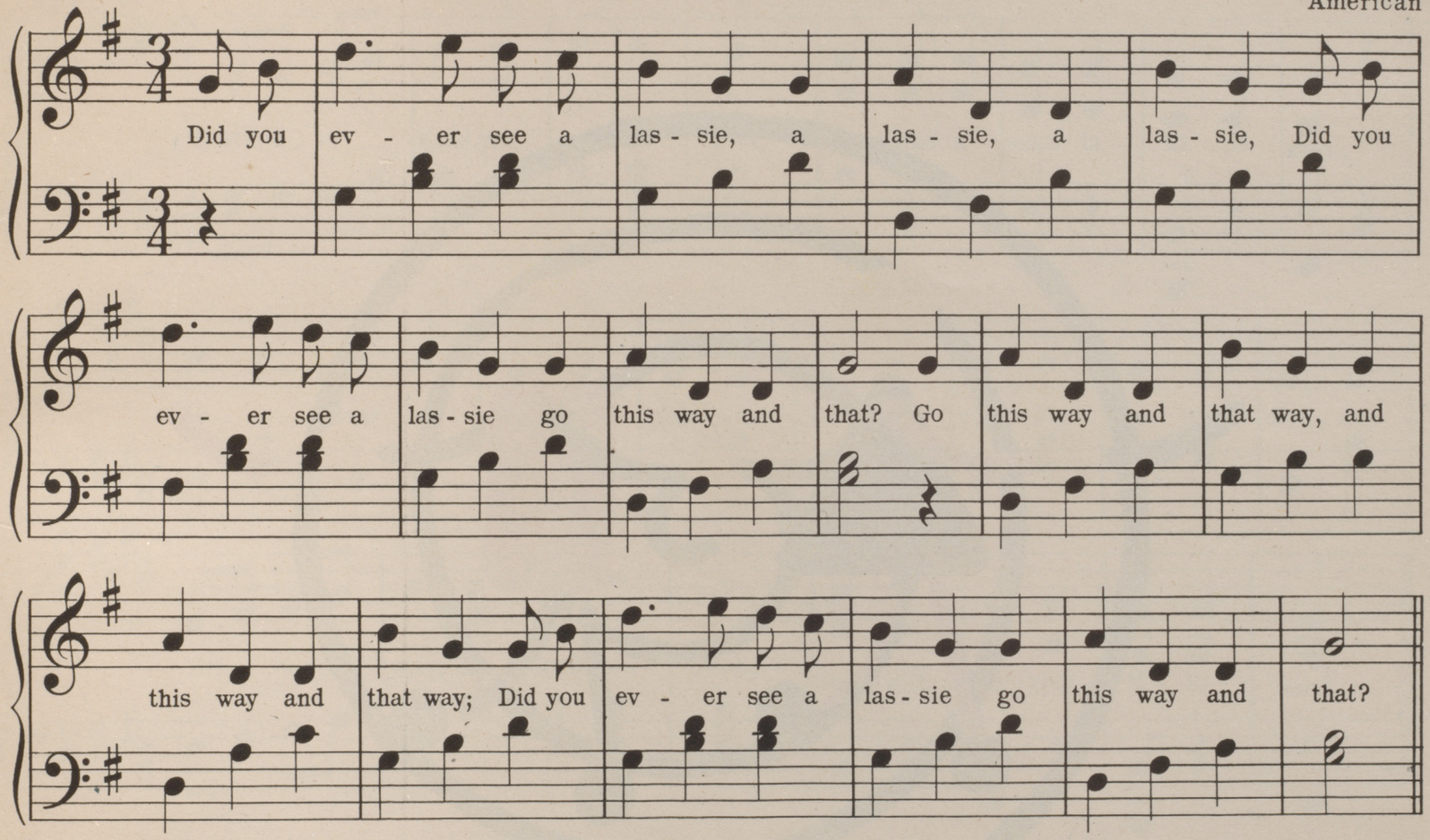
1. Make a circle and slide sideways singing the chorus.
2. While singing the first verse, the children face the center and pantomime the action.
3. Repeat, alternating the chorus and verse.

Victor Record 20214



DID YOU EVER SEE A LASSIE

American



1. Form circle with child in center.
2. Sing song and at words 'Go this way and that,' child in center originates some rhythmic activity.
3. Children in circle imitate until end of song.
4. Child in center chooses next child to be 'IT.'
5. If a boy is chosen, the word 'Lassie' becomes 'Laddie.'
6. Suggested activities: Clap hands, mark time, swing arms, beat fists or see-saw.

Victor Record 21618

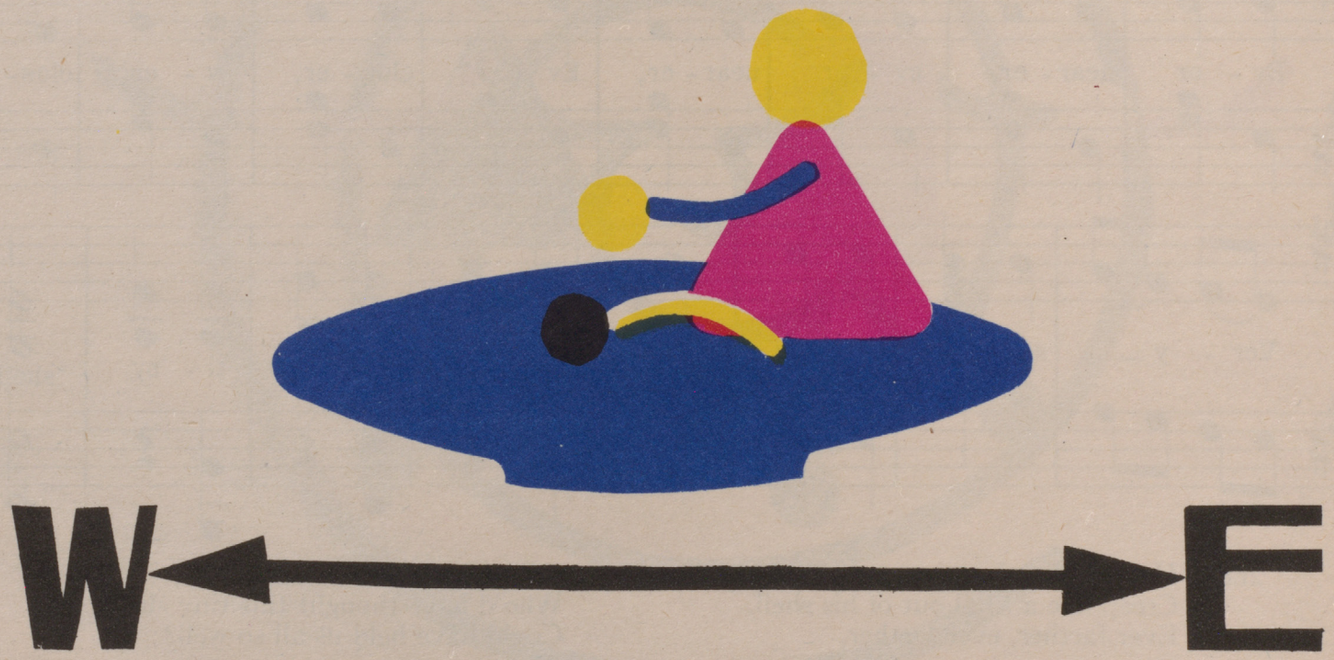
THE SNAIL

American

1. Hand in hand you see us well, Creep like a snail in - to his shell;
Ev - er near - er, ev - er near - er, Ev - er clos - er, ev - er clos - er,
Ver - y snug in - deed you dwell, Snail, with - in your ti - ny shell.

2nd. Hand in hand you see us well.
Creep like a snail out of his shell.
Ever farther, ever farther,
Ever wider, ever wider.
Who'd have thought this tiny shell,
Could have held us all so well?

1. Make circle. Two children drop hands—one is the head of the snail—the other is the tail.
2. As the children sing the first verse, the head of the snail slowly winds the line into spiral formation.
3. As the first verse ends, the head stops in the center and raises arm. All stand still.
4. While singing the second verse, the leader unwinds the line until all are back in the circle.


W
E

LITTLE SALLY WATER

English

CHORUS

Lit - tle Sal - ly Wa - ter, Sit - ting in a sau - cer, Weep - ing and cry - ing,

Rise, Sal - ly, rise. Wipe out your eyes, Turn to the East, Sal - ly,

SOLO CHORUS

Turn to the West, Sal - ly, Turn to the ver - y one you like the best.

SOLO CHORUS

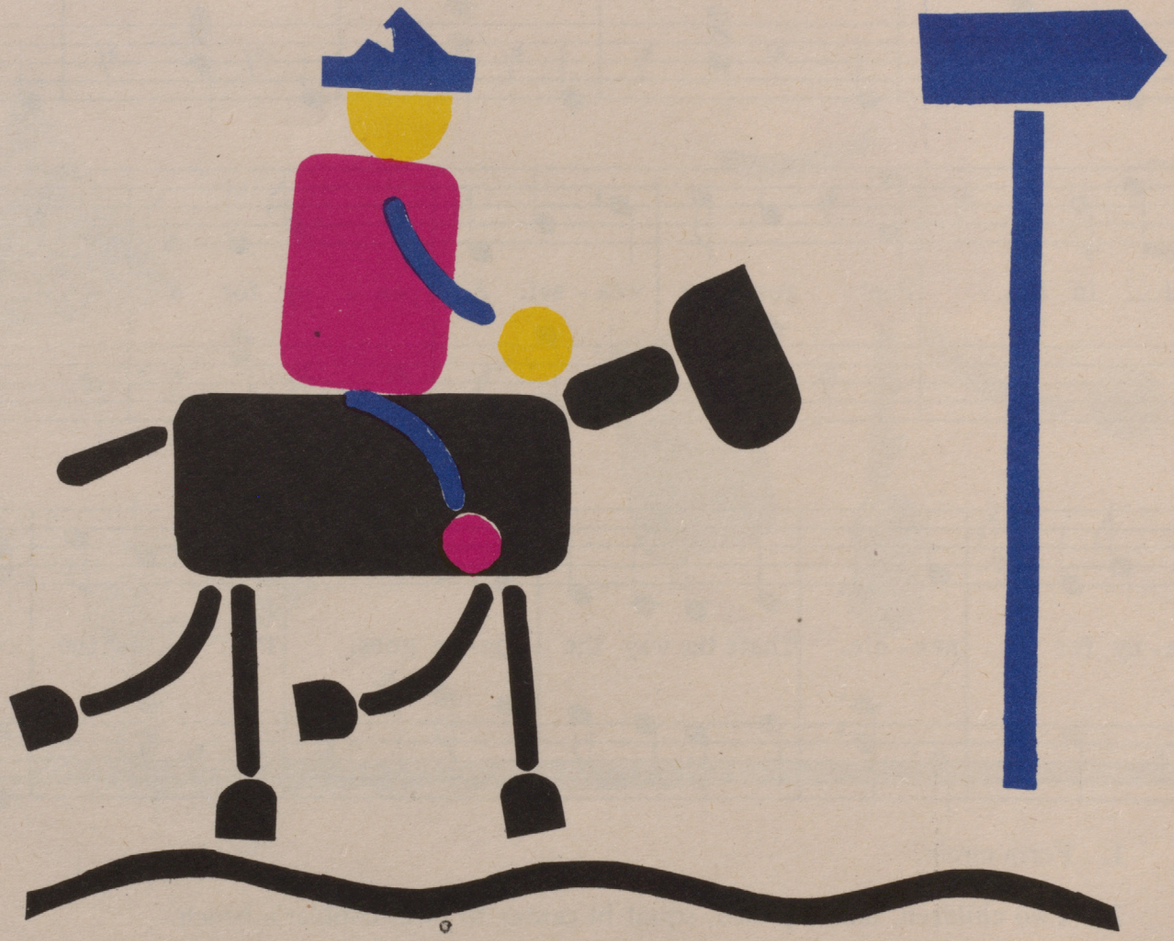
1. Make circle. Child squats in center.
2. Children walk to right and sing song.
3. Child in center acts out words of song.
4. At words, 'Turn to the East, Sally,' children stand still and point to the East—then to the West.
5. At words, 'Turn to the very one you like the best,' child in center makes a curtsey or bow in front of some child in circle.
6. If a boy is chosen, the word 'Sally' is changed to 'Tommy.'

POP GOES THE WEASEL

American

All a-round the cob-bler's bench, the mon-key chased the wea-sel, The mon-key tho't 'twas all in fun. Pop! goes the wea-sel. A pen-ny for a spool of thread, a pen-ny for a nee-dle. That's the way the mon-ey goes, Pop! goes the wea-sel.

1. Form circle.
2. Two children, hands joined, squat in center to form cobbler's bench.
3. Two other children, one the monkey and one the weasel chase around the bench.
4. At word 'Pop,' the children clap hands and the weasel turns and chases the monkey.
5. Repeat the game choosing four other children.



YANKEE DOODLE

American

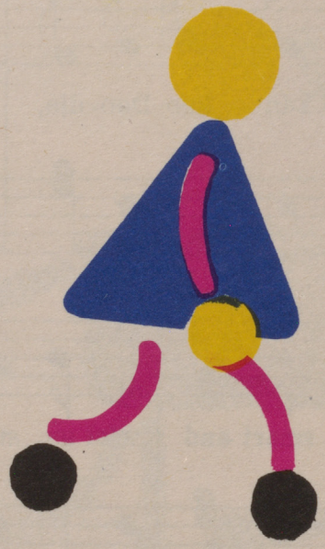
Yan-kee Doo-dle went to town up - on a lit - tle po - ny, He stuck a feath - er in his hat and called it ma - ca - ro - ni.

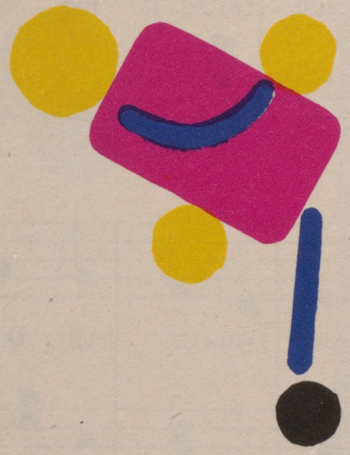
CHORUS

Yan - kee Doo-dle, Doo-dle - doo, Yan - kee Doo-dle Dan - dy, All the las-sies are so smart and sweet as su - gar can - dy.

1. Children form circle and drop hands.
2. One child stands in center and is Yankee Doodle.
3. Children gallop to music. As they gallop, they 'stick a feather in his hat.
4. At chorus, children stop.
5. Yankee Doodle takes the right hand of a child and swings him in a small circle.
6. Repeat with two or three children or until the song ends.

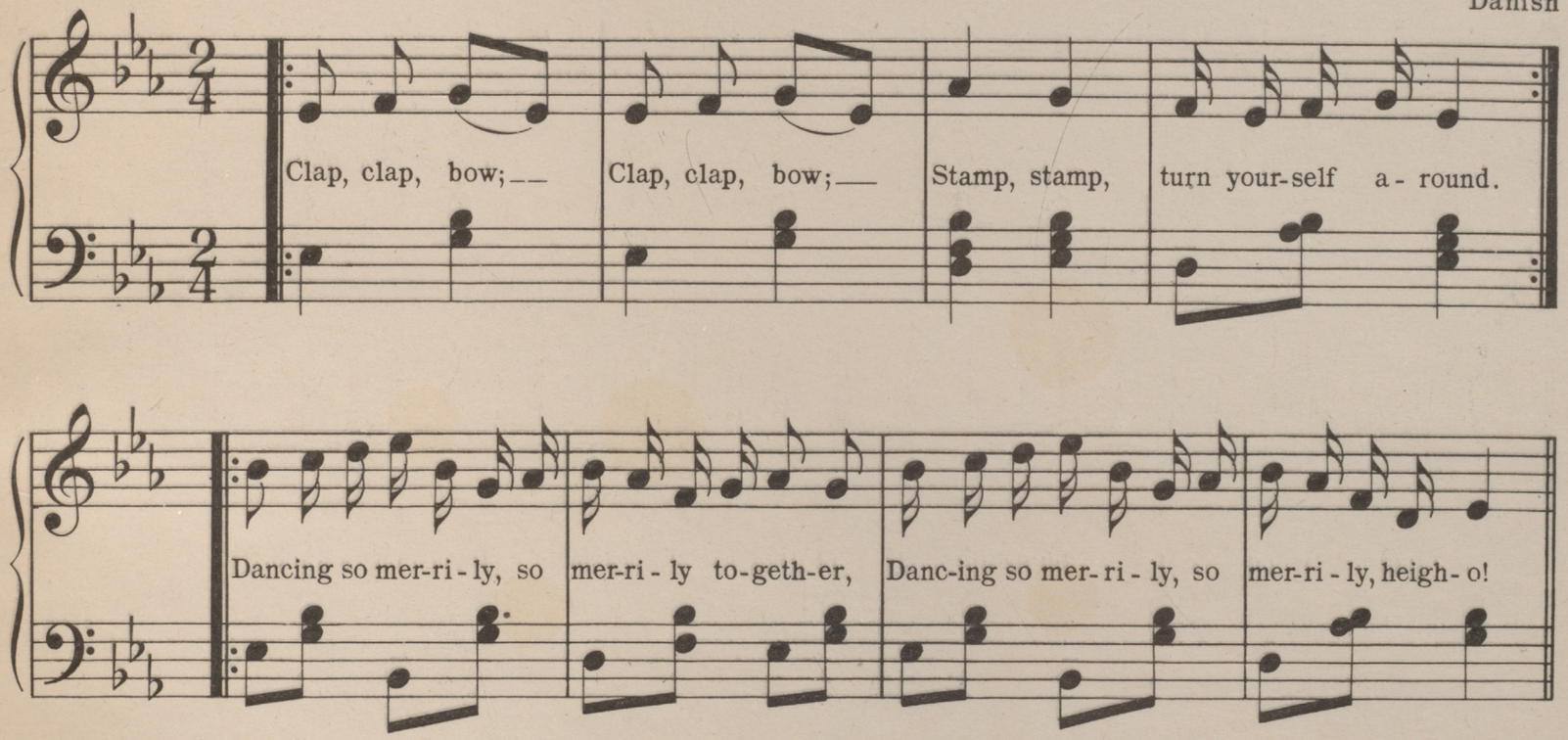
Victor Record 22760





DANCE OF GREETING

Danish



1. Children make double circle, facing each other.
2. At words 'Clap, clap, bow,' boys clap and bow, girls clap and curtsey.
3. At words 'Stamp, stamp, turn yourself around,' children stamp with feet and turn around.
4. Repeat two and three.
5. For remainder of song, partners join hands and slide to the right.

Victor Record 20432